

**■ SPORTS / A27**

Tiger Woods loses 'best friend and greatest role model'

■ WORLD / A24

Moussaoui gets life; taunts: 'US, you lost'

■ METRO / A21

Customs agents raid alleged source of smuggled goods in Tondo

■ BUSINESS / B1

Razon buys out Soriano in ICTS! for P5.9B

Erap has tomb ready but has no plans of dying yet

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA HAS been busy digging his own grave, quite literally.

The ousted leader said he had prepared a tomb for himself on his 15-ha estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he is being held under house arrest while on trial for plunder, a capital offense.

"I want to see where I will be laid, my final resting place," Estrada told a group of journalists whom he invited this week to his residence at No.

ERAP / AB

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Too much 'kare-kare,' 'paksiw' leave Erap with bum tummy

By Nelson F. Flores
and Fe Zamora

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A bum stomach to extend one's furlough.

A day after indulging in a feast featuring the favorite recipes of his mother, Mary Ejercito, former

TOO MUCH / AB



Gov't to appeal 1017 ruling

Execs, cops in illegal arrests, raid face barrage of raps

It's 5% win, 95% loss for Palace

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE REPORTED MALACAÑANG reaction to the Supreme Court decision on Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 was that the ruling was a "win-win" solution. This is a kind of reaction which can put win-win solutions in dispute! The score, as I see it, is more like 5 percent win and 95 percent loss.

Whence ANALYSIS came the 5 percent?

From the first of the three Commander-in-Chief powers conferred by the Constitution, namely, that the President may call on the Armed Forces to suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion. This President Macapagal-Arroyo did.

The high court could not begrudge Ms Arroyo that power given by the Constitution itself. Nor could the Supreme Court begrudge her the power to judge that rebellion was indeed afoot.

The court said: "Owing to her Office's vast intelligence network, she is in the best position to determine the actual condition of the country."

The mistake, however, was that Ms Arroyo chose the wrong instrument to accomplish what she had wanted done. The instrument she chose was her "calling-out" power, the least of her Commander-in-Chief powers under Article VII, Section 18 of the Constitution.

The court said: "Under the call-

IT'S 5% WIN / A6



AP/CECIL MORELLA

TOURISTS in a red kayak explore the turquoise-colored crater lake of Mt. Pinatubo. Life is rapidly returning to normal here 15 years after the

volcano blasted some 20 million tons of sulfur dioxide and ash particles 20 km into the atmosphere and caused the global temperature to drop.

15 years on, life returns to Pinatubo

MOUNT PINATUBO—LIFE IS rapidly returning to this Central Luzon mountain 15 years after it blew its top in an eruption that killed more than 1,500 people and sent a cloud of ash into the atmosphere that cooled world temperatures for years.

At dawn, wild roosters crow

lusty around Mount Pinatubo's summit, affirming the triumph of life over death in a region laid to waste by the world's second largest volcanic eruption of the 20th century.

Fireflies race for the safety of the sparse scrub and tall grass by the crater's edge, just before the

first batch of tourists arrive from an uphill trek, breathless and gasping in awe at the scenery.

Among the group of trekkers is porter Randy Dumunot, who was 14 when the volcano buried his family's nipa hut and their three-hectare farm of rice and root crops in the village of Santa Ju-

liana, Capas, Tarlac, about 30 km northeast of the volcano.

Dumunot's family rebuilt the house after the June 1991 eruption but the farm was no more, permanently covered in lahar, a fine dust of volcanic debris.

"Overnight we turned into

15 YEARS / A9

Gov't parcelling out 1,000 ha to Luisita farmers

By Blanche S. Rivera

ONE THOUSAND HECTARES OF the vast sugar estate owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino appear headed for distribution to farmer-beneficiaries.

On Wednesday, the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council juked with finality the motion of

Hacienda Luisita Inc. to reconsider the revocation of the stock distribution option at the estate, which covers nearly 5,000 hectares.

With only one dissenting opinion from the representative of the landowners, the PARC en banc adopted the decision of its executive committee to deny the appeal of the HLI.

"We are very optimistic that starting next month, we will start distributing the landholdings," Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman said yesterday at a press conference.

He said the Department of Agrarian Reform was only awaiting the valuation of the hacienda by the Land Bank of the Philippines.

But according to HLI spokesperson Vigor Mendoza II, the battle over Hacienda Luisita will not be over until the Supreme Court decides on the corporation's petition for an injunction with a temporary restraining order.

Mendoza also questioned the timing of the PARC decision, saying it followed yet again another

move by Aquino against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It has uncanny timing," he told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

Mendoza pointed out that the PARC decision last October to revoke the stock distribution option at the estate followed Aquino's call for the

GOVT / A19

US Senate raps GMA over media murders

WASHINGTON—THE US SENATE, in an inquiry into reported murders of media people in the Philippines since 2000, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration on Wednesday to swiftly bring to justice the attackers of journalists in the country.

"Ensuring that legal officials thoroughly investigate and prosecute attacks on journalists is critical as the world recognizes Press Freedom Day today," said Sen. Richard Lugar, the Republican chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, which held the inquiry.

World Press Freedom Day was

US SENATE / A19

GOVT / A19

Some senators may reconsider con-ass

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

SOME SENATORS SAID YESTERDAY THEY MAY agree to a constituent assembly to consider specific constitutional amendments provided these did not include a shift to a parliamentary form of government, but others said they would have nothing to do with amendments that don't go through a constitutional convention.

The senators were reacting to calls made by El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and retired Supreme Court Justice Vicente Mendoza on the Senate to consider a constituent assembly or con-ass as an alternative to the government-led "people's initiative" in amending the Constitution.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon rejected the calls outright.

"We have a Senate position," Biazon said in a telephone interview in which he referred to a Senate resolution expressing the chamber's preference for a constitutional convention. "And that position has not changed."

Piecemeal amendments

Sen. Richard Gordon, however, said some senators may consider turning both houses of Congress into a constituent assembly to draft specific constitutional amendments that do not involve any change in the form of government.

Gordon, chair of the Senate's committee on constitutional amendments, said the committee would recommend that the Senate and the House convene as a constituent assembly after the 2007 elections to consider piecemeal amendments to the Constitution, such as lifting term limits on national and local officials and removing restrictive economic provisions.

"I don't think the senators will agree to a parliamentary shift at all," Gordon said in a telephone interview. He said there was no need to change the presidential form of government.

"The congressmen are only titillated by a parliamentary government because they will be in control," he said.

"I think the senators are open to amending the Charter to improve the economy," Gordon said. "Right now there is the problem of the question about (President Macapagal-Ar-

royo's) legitimacy and it cannot be helped that people would think they are pushing Charter change to prolong her term."

He said many of his colleagues would consent to a con-ass after the 2007 elections.

Sen. Ralph Recto said he preferred a constituent assembly, but balked at the idea of sitting with members of the House who insist that both chambers should vote as one.

Senate abolition

"Just like in any sport, the rules of the game must be clear to the participants. It will be hard to play a game when one participant wants a set of rules in his favor. In the case of Cha-cha, the House insists that they can go it alone. That is unacceptable," he said.

Recto said the senators were not opposed to the parliamentary system simply because it would mean the Senate's abolition. He could very well run for parliament in his old congressional district in Batangas, Recto added.

"It's the voter's rights that we are taking away" in a parliamentary system, Recto said, explaining that citizens will lose their right to elect their head of state.

Recto said the Supreme Court rulings declaring aspects of EO 464, the CPR and PP 1017 unconstitutional were a signal to Malacañang that it would also strike down the people's initiative should the matter be brought up to the court.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said the senators will not agree to a constituent assembly if the House insists on the two chambers voting as one.

"The Senate will oppose any illegal or unconstitutional means to propose amendments to the Constitution. A con-ass wherein Congress votes together is unconstitutional and will not get the support of the senators," Pangilinan said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he would agree to a constituent assembly provided the senators were allowed to "play a decent role in the process... not as marginalized members of Congress but as senators exercising their just role in amending the Charter as defined by the Constitution or at least as what it intends to define," he said.

Senate's retort to Palace execs: Mind your jobs

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

"MIND YOUR JOBS."

This was administration Sen. Ralph Recto's retort to the Malacañang officials who had earlier told the senators to mind their manners when dealing with executive branch officials who fail to show up at committee hearings.

"The Palace misses the point," said Recto yesterday in an interview. "My committee has never been involved in the investigation of political controversies. This committee is tackling Malacañang initiatives so I don't know why it is making those statements."

Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, said the officials were properly invited, not to be rudely treated, but to get their input on economic measures being pushed by Malacañang itself.

"They should mind their jobs. They should be prepared to deliberate with us on these measures so we can have meaningful legislation and come up with laws that they can implement. What's the point of passing laws they cannot implement?" Recto said.

Courtesy

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had earlier asked the senators "to observe inter-branch courtesy and refrain from harsh tongues that tend to place the executive [branch] in a bad light."

This after Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Trade Secretary Peter Avila and Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag snubbed last Monday's hearing of Recto's committee, sending word they were either abroad or in other meetings.

The hearing was called to deliberate measures intended to maximize government revenues, curb smuggling and reduce the withholding tax on individual taxpayers. The latter recommendation was made by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Congress on Labor Day as one measure that could alleviate the plight of workers at this time of economic hardship.

Recto had earlier said the exec-



RECTO

utive branch officials' attendance would have been a test of Malacañang's compliance with the recent Supreme Court ruling declaring portions of Executive Order No. 464 unconstitutional and upholding the right of Congress to obtain the testimony of officials in inquiries in aid of legislation.

The EO barred government, military and police officials from appearing at congressional hearings without the President's approval.

Fair play

For its part, Malacañang said yesterday it was not out to pick a fight with the Senate nor did it want administration executives to be given special treatment.

"All we want is fair play, mutual respect and cooperation in serving the people," Bunye said in a statement. "It has never been the intent of the executive department to wage institutional conflict with the legislative branch. The executive does not need special treatment."

Malacañang is also seeking the establishment of ground rules to govern the congressional appearance of administration officials, including how much lead time they should be given from the invitation to their appearance, the prior submission of the questions to be asked, and limiting the inquiry to the subject at hand.

"We welcome any initiative to lay down the proper ground rules which would fully respect the separation of powers... and accord respect and dignity to all parties," Bunye said.

marie france

"From a bulging 34 inches, I'm back into my size 27 jeans again!"

HOTTEST ISSUE!

Liposuction?
No thanks!

A new Dawn Zulueta
25 inches
11 pounds
3 months

POSTNATAL
FATS? How to get
rid of that big
belly safely and conveniently
according to Dawn

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Montreal racism row isolated, says Canadian embassy

By Volt Contreras

THE CANADIAN EMBASSY DEScribed as "an atypical and isolated incident" the case of a Filipino student in Montreal who was reportedly punished by his teacher for using a spoon and fork instead of eating with one utensil "the Canadian way." The incident has been denounced as racist by the boy's compatriots, the Philippine Embassy, as well as by a Canadian anti-racism group.

Steven Rheat-Kihara, the mission's political and economic counselor, declined to give further comment, saying the embassy knew nothing more of the incident than what the media had reported.

But the diplomat noted "it is interesting that this came up now because (Canadian Ambassador to Manila Peter Sutherland) has just been to Canada" where he met with various Filipino groups from April 23 to May 1.

"The issue never came up" in those encounters between Sutherland and the Filipinos based in Ottawa, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto, he said in a phone interview yesterday.

"In fact, the ambassador recognized the Filipino-Canadian community for its involvement in the social and political life of Canada," he added.

The boy's teacher reportedly "disciplined" the Filipino second grader more than 10 times this year for eating with a spoon and fork at lunch break. As punishment, he was moved to another table to eat by himself.

His family learned of his ordeal on April 11 when, at the kitchen table, he wouldn't touch his dinner because "my teacher is telling me that eating with a spoon and fork is yucky and disgusting."

His mother lodged a complaint with the school board in Roxboro last April 13, according to newspaper and embassy reports cited Wednesday by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Filipino mother, a contract worker who eventually earned immigrant status in Montreal in 1999, raised the matter with the principal but was reportedly told by that official that her son was disciplined for "eating like a pig."

The principal was further quoted as telling the mother "to eat the way Canadians eat" because she is in Canada.

Rheat-Kihara maintained that his government looks up to the Filipino-Canadian community as "very much contributing to the success of Canadian multiculturalism."

He said the Canadian government's relations with this "vibrant" ethnic group remain "nothing short of excellent."

There are currently around 400,000 Canadians with Filipino origins in his country, he noted.

But the DFA yesterday continued showing its displeasure over the incident by releasing a statement from Philippine Ambassador to Ottawa Jose Brillantes.

The Filipino envoy said his post "fully supports the actions" being taken by the Filipino community in Montreal, Quebec, who were outraged by the case.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Friday, May 5, 2006
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: Gospel:

The Jews were arguing among themselves. "How can this man give us flesh to eat?" So Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives with eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day."

"My flesh is real food and my blood is drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, live in me and I in them. Just as the Father who is life, sent me and I have life from the Father, so whoever eats me will have life from me. This is the bread which came from heaven; unlike that of your ancestors, who ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Jesus spoke in this way in Capernaum when he taught them in the synagogue.

Commentary

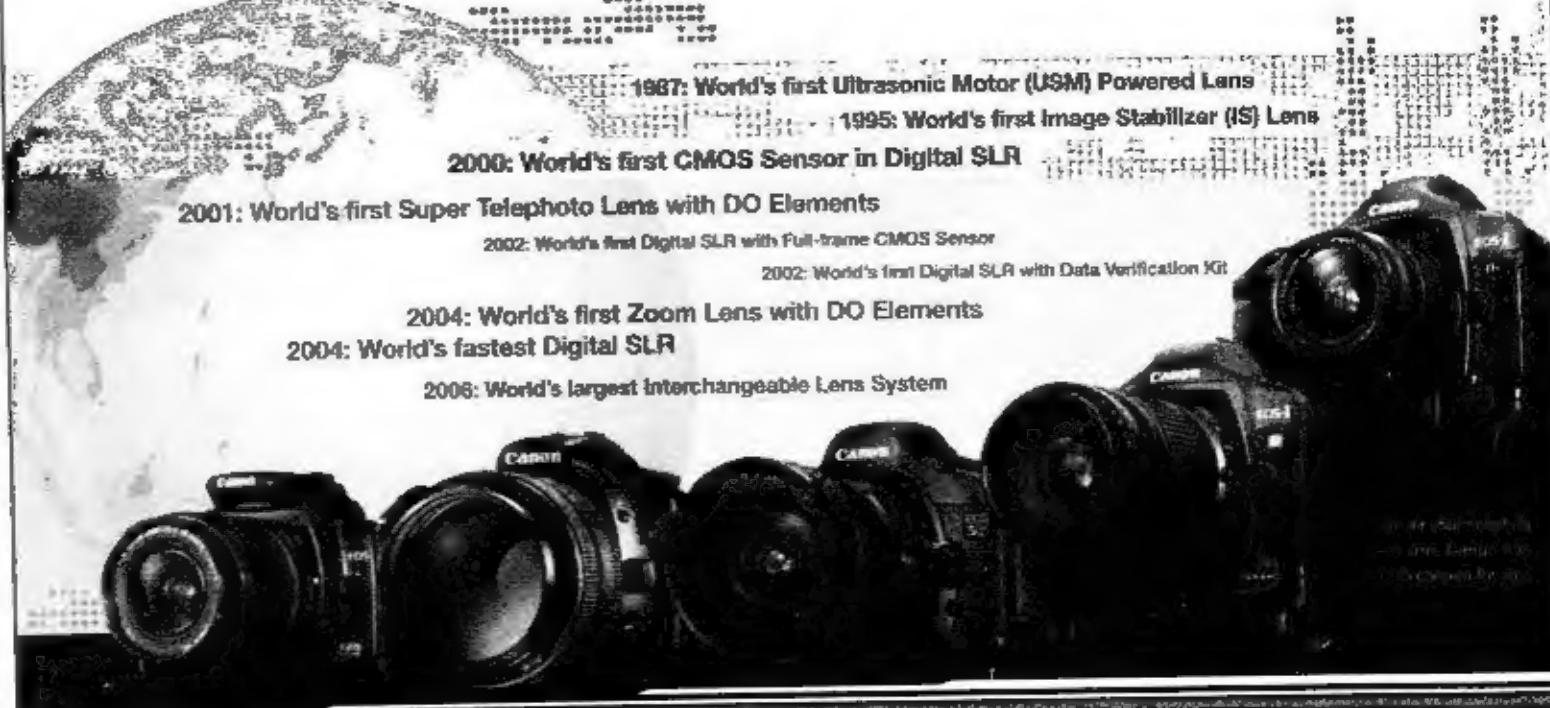
The readings from *Acts* and *John* always go together in this season. The preaching of the word of Jesus in the Scripture and the breaking of the bread of life are one and the same thing meant to be whole, unbroken, and coming together in the lived life of believers. The only Body of Christ that Saul meets is the Church, the community, the sacrament of the Risen Lord, and they teach him how to live—those he persecuted, Stephen, Ananias, and others. We need the word of the Scripture to teach us with others what the body and blood of Jesus, in word and eucharist, means for our daily lives. We feed on God so that others might feed on us.

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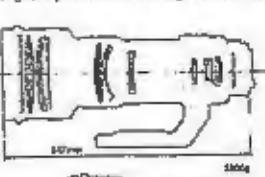


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GMA foes elated, eye impeachment

By Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's opponents are gearing up to revive impeachment complaint against her, buoyed by three successive setbacks on key constitutional issues before the Supreme Court.

"The Palace is not above the law," said Rep. Rolex Suplico of Iloilo. "It should now prepare for the forthcoming impeachment of the President upon the expiration of the one-year ban on June 26, 2006."

Suplico said Wednesday's court ruling on Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 was a "strike-out for the Palace," using a baseball term, coming as it did after Supreme Court decisions that declared unconstitutional a gag order under Executive Order No. 464 and the calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy that allowed police to break up demonstrations.

"I suggest that the Palace show the door to whoever advised the

President. Or better still, the Palace should now seriously consider taking the bat and using it on an unnamed presidential adviser," said Suplico.

Culpable violation

Former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, a victim of warrantless arrest, said: "This is the third time that the Supreme Court declared some of Malacañang's moves unconstitutional. This is a ground for impeachment. What are we waiting for?" Soliman was referring to the impeachable offense of culpable violation of the Constitution.

Last year, Ms Arroyo's allies in the House killed an impeachment attempt against her over allegations she had rigged the 2004 election. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Lawyer Ibarra Gutierrez III, a law professor at the University of the Philippines, agreed with Soliman.

"For it to be impeachable, the act should be directly attributable

to the President," Gutierrez said. Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao are Ms Arroyo's alter egos, Gutierrez said.

He said that Defensor, Ermita and Lomibao all made pronouncements on some personalities to be arrested even without warrants in connection with the emergency and protest rallies.

Traceable to GMA

Their action is a violation of the Constitution and is directly traceable to the President unless she draws the line, says that she had nothing to do with their pronouncements and initiates their prosecution," Gutierrez said.

He said that with the Supreme Court ruling that the acts committed in the name of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 had no basis under the law, there was a violation on the part of Ms Arroyo.

royo.

"She tacitly approved these actions and that is a culpable violation of the Constitution," Gutierrez said.

Lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno, chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group, welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court on PP 1017.

"It has to be established that the orders really came from her (Ms Arroyo)," Diokno said.

Diokno added that it would have been much better if the Supreme Court's decision had deemed the proclamation itself unconstitutional.

Critics warned

Members of the House majority urged administration critics to respect the Supreme Court decision on PP 1017 and not use it to sow further "destabilization" against the government.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nogales and Rep. Salacni Baterina (Lakas, Ilocos Sur) said government critics must respect the high

court's decision and not call it "half-cooked" because that would be an affront to the tribunal.

Nogales said antigovernment groups also could not circumvent the court's ruling "to instigate chaos and mob rule."

"They must be guided accordingly. The Supreme Court ruled the President is constitutionally empowered to declare a national emergency. Incorrect implementation done in indecent haste, however, has caused legal infirmities as it has violated other protected human rights of individuals and the media," he said.

Baterina said the decision in effect said that Ms Arroyo could still use her powers to crush destabilization threats but that this should be done without resorting to legal "short-cuts."

"This doesn't give the anti-Arroyo forces the license to push their luck and continue plotting to topple the government. The government still has the legal means to protect itself from politi-

cal attacks," he said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casifio said the Supreme Court just gave the impending impeachment of the President "another boost" since it was the third time in a row that the tribunal declared a Palace directive as unconstitutional.

Casifio also said Malacañang's spin doctors, the military and police should not engage in "doubletalk or Newspeak" by insisting that they did nothing wrong and that the orders and proclama-

tions were necessary.

"Otherwise, GMA may be liable for another offense: Insisting that her acts were constitutional after the Supreme Court already declared it otherwise," Casifio said.

"It is the height of arrogance and self-delusion for Malacañang to interpret the decision on CPR and PP 1017 as victories for the Arroyo regime. In case the President's apologists didn't notice, the SC ruled that she violated the Constitution at least three times," he said.

Gov't to appeal 1017 ruling

From page A1

was empowered to do this during an emergency. He cited an opinion by Fr. Joaquin Bernas, one of the framers of the 1987 Constitution, that "the President could direct such in behalf of the State without need of authority from Congress."

Voting 11-3, the high tribunal on Wednesday upheld Ms Arroyo's power to call on the Armed Forces to suppress lawless violence but ruled illegal a clause in the proclamation giving herself authority to issue edicts similar to the decree-making powers the dictator Ferdinand Marcos had exercised under his martial law declaration in 1972.

The court also declared unconstitutional the arrest of protesters, the forcible breakup of rallies and the raid on an opposition newspaper that were carried out in accordance with Ms Arroyo's proclamation of a state of national emergency.

The President, battling a crisis of legitimacy in the face of allegations she stole the May 2004 election, issued PP 1017 to deal with a "cabal" of rogue soldiers, communist guerrillas, opposition politicians and businessmen allegedly seeking to unseat her.

State lawyers have urged the court to dismiss the challenge mounted against PP 1017 spearheaded by senators, pointing out that the issue had become moot after Ms Arroyo lifted the proclamation a week later.

Other illegal acts

Nachura said that administration lawyers would still discuss the high court decision that said

PP 1017 did not justify warrantless arrests and the breakup of rallies, among other things.

The Solicitor General stressed that when PP 1017 was issued, he had repeatedly said in media interviews that the proclamation did not authorize warrantless arrests.

Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr. said that he expected lawsuits against the Philippine National Police as a result of its actions during the weeklong emergency.

"Those who feel aggrieved or those who feel they have been wronged can use the Supreme Court decision to bring to court persons in authority," Khan told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"They can go to court and say 'I am one of those clubbed under PP 1017,'" he said.

These cases would be treated separately from those filed by University of the Philippines professor Randy David, who was arrested during a rally, and publisher Ninez Cacho-Olivares, whose Daily Tribune was raided, Khan said.

DOJ lawyers ready

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said his department was prepared to meet these criminal, civil and administrative cases against government personnel.

"You cannot stop them from filing the case. In fact, Cacho-Olivares has already announced (that she would do so). I think that it's all right, it's their right," he said.

But Gonzalez raised doubts that these cases would prosper, saying



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo pauses during a roundtable discussion in Malacañang on the condonation of penalties and surcharges on GSIS and SSS borrowers.

LYN RILLON

the police acted in good faith.

"I don't see anything done there that was done in bad faith. The policemen who acted at that time were following lawful orders. There was no declaration of the illegality of PP 1017 at the that time. I believe all their actions are legal," he said.

No effect on Batasan 6

As for Olivares, the justice secretary said the case of "inciting to sedition" filed against her would

be prosecuted.

Although the monitoring of the media would no longer continue, Gonzalez said some journalists would remain under watch because the charge of inciting to sedition, like libel, "can happen anytime."

As for the so-called "Batasan 6," Gonzalez said the court's decision on PP 1017 did not change the situation for them because their alleged rebellious acts were prior to the issuance of the proclamation.

Beltran said that the courts would eventually rule that his arrest was illegal.

Thus, he said, the congressmen led by party-list Rep. Sami Ocampo, who had taken refuge at the House of Representatives, could be arrested when they leave the building.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said the Supreme Court ruling would only be a "toothless tiger" if the Arroyo administration's political harassment and suppression of its critics continued.

From the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City where he is detained on humanitarian grounds, the ailing Beltran issued a statement expressing his hope that "the ruling would herald the reversal of the abominations associated with the imposition of PP 1017."

The 73-year-old Beltran said the ruling affirmed "what we have been saying right from the start: That President Arroyo is a wannabe dictator who is trying to put in place mechanisms for creating martial law."

Beltran said he hoped that the courts would eventually rule that his arrest was illegal.

Arrests 'legal'

Director Vidal Querol, Metro Manila police chief, said that the monitoring of the warrantless arrests of David and Akbayan president Rodolfo Llamas on Feb. 24, the day Ms Arroyo declared the emergency, were legal.

Querol said that PP 1017, being the "flavor of the month," made everybody think that the police were advancing on the protesters solely on the basis of the proclamation.

He said the police were acting under Batas Pambansa Bilang 880, the law on demonstrations,

which the court had earlier said was legal.

"To say that (they) were arrested solely on the basis of PP 1017 is a bit contentious and argumentative," Querol told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He noted that David and Llamas were leading a protest rally without securing a permit.

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdiao, PNP spokesperson, also insisted that police actions during the emergency were guided by General Orders No. 5 and 6 which Ms Arroyo issued with PP 1017.

Just following

"Those things were not done by the PNP to its own liking. We were just following the proclamation," said Pagdiao in a phone interview from Zamboanga City, where he was traveling with PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao.

Vice President Noli de Castro and former Sen. Loren Legarda, both former broadcast journalists, issued separate statements welcoming the court decision.

Legarda said the "ruling was a vindication of the people's right to self expression, including the conduct of peaceful protest rallies."

She said it also "affirmed the mandate of media to inform the people ... without fear of retribution and harassment from government."

De Castro said: "We must now observe the parameters laid down by the Supreme Court so that the powers of government can be exercised without violating the constitutional rights of the people." With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Jocelyn R. Uy, Philip C. Tubeza, Nancy C. Carvajal and Cynthia D. Balana

exercising emergency powers on the other.

Ms Arroyo could declare a state of emergency, which after all is nothing more than a description of a situation and does not give her additional powers. But to exercise emergency powers, she needed authorization from Congress—which she did not have.

This interpretation of Article XII, Section 17 is contrary to what I had held earlier. However, when former Justice Isagani Cruz disagreed with me on this, I reviewed my premises.

I now agree that, considering the martial provenance of this provision, the President cannot exercise this power without au-

thorization from Congress; or unless there has been a declaration of martial law.

They thought wrong

Having declared a state of emergency, however, Ms Arroyo thought, or her subordinates thought, that they could do a lot of things they could not do in normal times.

The court was categorical: "On the basis of the relevant and uncontested facts narrated earlier, it is also pristine clear that (1) the warrantless arrest of petitioners Randolph S. David and Ronald Llamas; (2) the dispersal of the rallies and warrantless arrest of the KMU and NAFLU-KMU members; (3) the imposi-

tion of standards on media or any prior restraint on the press; and (4) the warrantless search of the Tribune offices and the whimsical seizures of some articles for publication and other materials, are not authorized by the Constitution, the law and jurisprudence. Not even by the valid provisions of PP 1017 and GO (General Order) No. 5."

Briefly, then, if the Supreme Court decision were a school grading sheet, out of a possible 100 percent, the Arroyo administration scored 5 percent.

Will they ever learn? Not if they do not want to. And it is just too bad that the decision was marred by a not too convincing dissenting opinion.

From page A1

ing-out power, the President may summon the Armed Forces to aid him in suppressing lawless violence, invasion and rebellion. This involves ordinary police action. For this reason, a President must be careful in the exercise of his powers. He cannot invoke a greater power when he wishes to act under a lesser power."

Lifted from Marcos edict
What did Ms Arroyo want to do with this lesser power? She ordered the military "to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

It's 5% win, 95% loss for Palace

From page A1

it did not escape the court's notice that the language of Ms Arroyo's proclamation had lifted a line from President Ferdinand Marcos' Proclamation No. 1081 declaring martial law and ordering the military "to enforce obedience to all the laws and decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

Lifted from Marcos edict
What did Ms Arroyo want to do with this lesser power? She ordered the military "to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

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LOPEZ as Maximo Oliveros: Going places

'Maximo' makes it to Sydney Opera House

By Volt Contreras

THE WIDELY-ACCLAIMED FILIPINO FILM "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros (The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros)" is to premiere in Australia next week, and the screening will be held in that country's world-famous cultural venue—the Sydney Opera House.

It will be the "centerpiece film," slated May 12 and 13, in connection with The Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival, according to Ma. Theresa Lazaro, the Philippines' consul general in Sydney.

The film's debut Down Under "has again put the Philippines in the cultural spotlight and affirms the Filipino filmmakers' capability of producing world-class films that audiences throughout the world can relate to," Lazaro said in a statement.

That it will be shown at the Sydney Opera House, she noted, "attests to the distinguished status that it has received from the Australian organizers, a historic feat unto itself for a Filipino film."

Now in its sixth year, "Message Sticks" is a three-day event showcasing the latest indigenous films from Australia and from around the world. Entries this year come from seven countries, including the Philippines.

"Maximo" tells the story a gay 12-year-old who befriends a young policeman, thus undermining his devotion to his family of petty criminals.

The film stars Nathan Lopez as Maximo and is directed by the renowned Filipino theater artist-director, filmmaker and indigenous rights advocate Aureus Solito.

Maximo joins two other Filipino-directed films, "Masahista" and "Two Nights," to be screened in Sydney's cultural belt this year.

Betoy Johnson, PDI photog; 71



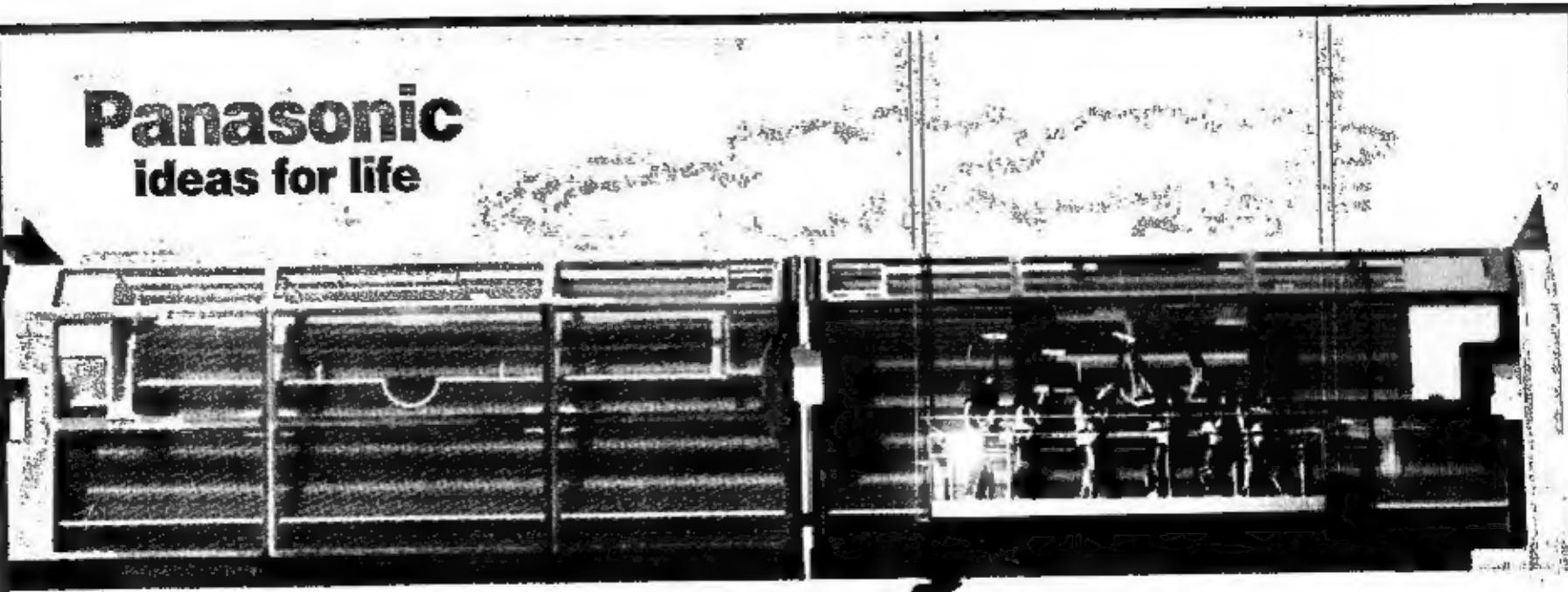
BETOY JOHNSON, INQUIRER photographer, died on May 1 at the age of 71.

Johnson started his career in the 1960s in the J. Walter Thompson Advertising agency. He also worked for the NOW Magazine in the early 1970s.

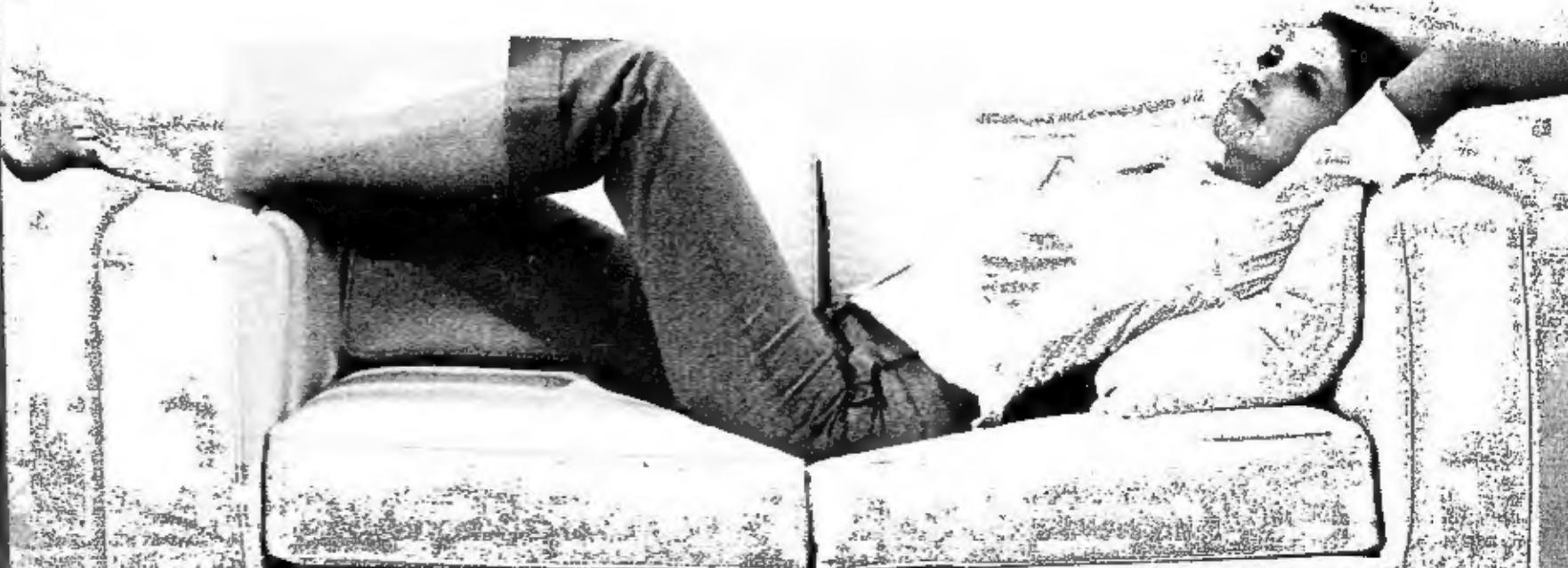
He later joined the now defunct Newsday as staff photographer. He worked for one year as a photo correspondent for the INQUIRER in 1992 before becoming a full-time photographer.

His wake is being held in his Bacoor, Cavite residence. He is survived by 12 children.

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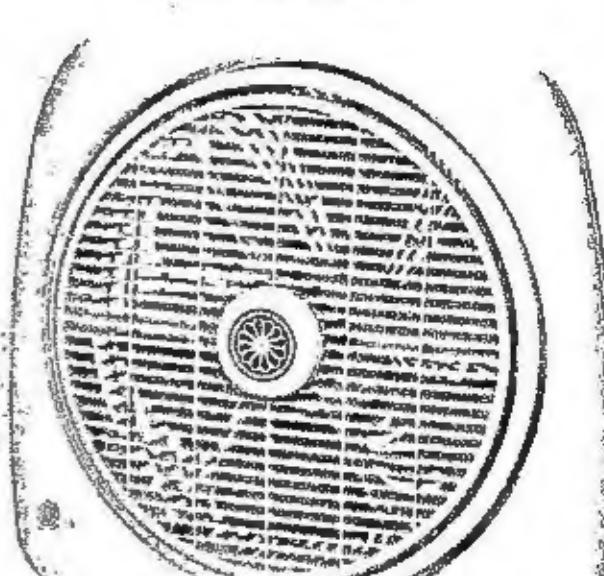
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Too much 'kare-kare,' 'paksiw' leave Erap with bum tummy

From page A1

President Joseph Estrada was taken to the San Juan Medical Center (SJMC) suffering from diarrhea and vomiting.

Estrada's condition prevented him from returning Wednesday night to his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, where he is detained on charges of plunder and perjury.

It also precluded him from continuing his testimony today at his plunder trial before the Sandiganbayan Special Division.

Dr. Lorenzo Jocson, Estrada's personal physician, yesterday ordered the ex-President to be taken to the hospital.

He said Estrada, who was transported to the SJMC in a Ford Expedition SUV, would remain there the whole day today for medical tests.

"He definitely cannot attend today's hearing at the Sandiganbayan. He may be afflicted by diarrhea there," Jocson said, adding that the results of the tests would determine the length of the patient's stay in the hospital.

High-powered meal'

Asked if Estrada was in danger, Jocson said: "The medical condition of the former President is not life-threatening." He said Estrada

would be fed intravenously to ward off dehydration.

The 69-year-old actor-turned-politician with a reputed predilection for high living was said to have helped himself to a "high-powered meal."

According to Ferdie Ramos, Estrada's media liaison, the meal included kare-kare, paksiw na lamang loob, chicharong taba, relenong bangus, adobong baboy at manok, cake and leche flan.

Ramos said Estrada began to vomit and suffer from diarrhea shortly after 7 p.m. on Wednesday. He was then in his residence at No. 1 Polk St., North Greenhills, San Juan, entertaining the guests of his mother who was celebrating her 101st birthday.

Ramos said Estrada's condition worsened later in the night, prompting his police escorts to postpone his return to Tanay.

He said Jocson later asked the police escorts to allow the ex-President to stay at the Polk house for medical observation.

Sandiganbayan Chief Sheriff Ed Urieta said he and the police officials present at Polk decided to let Estrada's physician determine whether the ex-President should be returned to his rest house or be confined in a hospital.

"I went to his house on Polk



ERAP returns to his Greenhills home accompanied by Sandiganbayan Chief Sheriff Ed Urieta.

Street and I saw that he was suffering from a stomachache," Urieta said. "I will wait for Dr. Jocson's evaluation before I report it to the court."

Shooting the breeze

But before his stomach acted up, Estrada was happily shooting the breeze with friends and members of the media.

The way he said it, he had forgiven his enemies and his wandering heart had settled for old, familiar loves.

The known Lothario described his love life as "like wearing old shoes."

"No more new loves," he said, but added with a chuckle:

"Above and below the belt, I am OK."

Estrada leisurely sipped red wine—but not his favorite, the expensive Petrus—while talking about his spread in Tanay that now includes a poultry, a piggy, a vegetable patch, a museum and a mausoleum where he wants to be buried.

His skin glowing, Estrada said he now had time for regular facials.

He removed his eyeglasses to show off his movie-star looks, partly enhanced by the surgical

removal of an eyelid droop sometime ago.

But no pictures, please, he said, laughing.

Forgiving, forgetting

"I used to forgive, but not forget. Now, I can forgive and forget," Estrada declared.

But asked if it meant that he expected others to forgive him as well, he turned pensive before replying: "What is there to ask for forgiveness for?"

Estrada was served a warrant of arrest in April 2001 at his Polk Street residence.

From a long detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, he was taken to an Army camp in Tanay just across from his vacation estate and private farm, to which he was eventually transferred.

Estrada said the farm had kept him busy.

"I have a poultry, a piggy, a vegetable garden. I'm a farmer. Soon I'll be fishing," he said, beaming.

He is tending ducks, now numbering 2,000 from 44. He has given away 180 piglets, to be raised by poor families living around his farm on the condition that they would each return three piglets to him when their own pigs start reproducing.

"I also have a little museum there, and my mausoleum," he said.

According to the account of businessman/columnist Herman Tiu Laurel, the Estrada mausoleum was patterned after that of US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Washington, DC.

The vault is unusually wide, like it can accommodate two persons, according to Laurel.

"So we asked President Estrada if he wanted somebody with him there. You know what he said? 'I just want elbow room,'" Laurel said.

13-hour furlough

Early this week, with Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and the Philippine National Police posing no objections, the Sandiganbayan Special Division allowed Estrada to attend his mother's birthday celebration.

The court order specified that Estrada was to stay for 13 hours at his Polk residence, after which he was to be returned to detention at his rest house in Tanay.

Estrada's lawyers tried to extend his furlough until today, the date of his scheduled testimony at his plunder trial.

They filed a supplemental motion, but it was rejected by the antigraft court.

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Erap has tomb ready but has no plans of dying yet

From page A1

1 Polk St. in San Juan for his mother's 101st birthday celebration.

While awaiting the conclusion of his 5-year-old trial, Estrada keeps himself busy on his estate running a farm with 300 chickens and 200 hogs.

Building a museum'

He said he was also building a museum that would showcase his life as a "superstar, mayor, senator, President and prisoner."

Estrada said it was US President

Ronald Reagan who inspired him to run for the country's highest office.

"He is my idol," Estrada said. "It is from President Reagan that I got the idea of running."

"When he became president, I said to myself, if the most powerful nation can elect a movie actor as their president, I don't see any reason why the Filipinos cannot elect a movie actor also as their president," he said.

Estrada said he watched Reagan's sunset burial, suggesting he wanted a similar cinematic event when he goes.

"He really scheduled even the time

of his burial," Estrada said. "It was beautiful, dramatic. He was really an actor."

However, Estrada gave no signs of planning to die anytime soon.

Serious ailment

The 69-year-old confessed womanizer and former heavy drinker and gambler said he was preparing "physically, mentally and spiritually" for being acquitted.

He said he had cut back on cigarettes—from three packs a day to one and a half. According to him, his days of drinking Scotch whisky were

over. He has turned to wine instead.

His most serious ailment—weak knees that made him wobble when he walked—was corrected two years ago when he received titanium knee replacements in surgery in Hong Kong.

"They are perfect. I am now a bionic man," he said with a laugh.

Estrada said he wakes up at 6:30 a.m. each morning, does calisthenics in his small gym and gets into his sauna. This is followed by private prayers at 9 a.m. He then visits his chickens and hogs and supervises the museum construction.

"I am following more or less the Reagan type of museum," Estrada said. AP

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Manila mass breast-feeding busts record

From page A1

sults would be submitted to Guinness for evaluation.

"I think Manila has broken the world Guinness record for simultaneous breast-feeding. This afternoon we will have the preliminary result and in a couple of days we will have the official result," said Dr. Nicholas K. Alipui, Unicef representative in the Philippines.

Dubbed "Sabay-Sabay Sumuso sa Nanay," the event held at the San Andres Sports and Civic Center in Malate was also aimed at reviving the breast-feeding culture in the country, organizers said.

But it started out as a protest activity by mothers admonished not to breast-feed in public.

The activity evolved into a form of celebration during occasions like World Breast-feeding Week.

Affirmation of life

"This is a magnificent gathering; this is one way of affirming that nothing will stop mothers from providing the best for their children," Alipui said, adding:

"Breast-feeding is life-affirming; it's the smartest, most effective way of giving a secure foundation to our children."

Dr. Elvira Henares-Esguerra, director of Children for Breast-feeding, said the rate of breast-feeding in the country had been declining at an alarming rate.

Citing the 2003 National Demographic Health Survey, Henares-Esguerra said that only 54 percent of infants were breast-fed within an hour after birth, and that only 33.5 percent of infants under six months were exclusively breast-fed.

The survey also showed that on average, Filipino infants were breast-fed exclusively for less than a month, and that the practice of breast-feeding young children lasted for 14 months only.

"That's why this event also seeks to encourage more mothers, particularly those in cities, to breast-feed optimally, meaning exclusive breast-feeding for the first six months of life, and continue breast-feeding with appropriate complementary food up to two years and beyond," Henares-Esguerra said.

Alipui called the downturn on breast-feeding "a death sentence" for Filipino children, 16,000 of whom die yearly due to formula feeding.

A baby who receives infant formula in the first two months of its life is up to 25 times more likely to die from diarrhea and four times more likely to die from pneumonia than an exclusively breast-fed baby, Unicef has said.

Proven benefits

Henares-Esguerra said the health benefits of exclusive breast-feeding had been proven and were many.



RHODORA Israel breast-feeds her 5-month-old twins Martina and Mary during the record-busting mass breast-feeding at the San Andres Sports Stadium in Manila on Thursday.

APPROMEO GACAD

around with the breast that nurtures you," she said.

Health officials said they were also considering the imposition of a ban on advertising by milk companies claiming that formula milk was a substitute for breast milk.

The government of Manila, on the other hand, vowed to promote breast-feeding in the city's health centers, hospitals and government offices.

Mayor Lito Atienza said he would propose the installation of breast-feeding centers in government offices as well as in shopping malls.

"This is to accommodate nursing mothers," said Atienza, who claimed that all his children were breast-fed.

"I believe in breast-feeding. My wife breast-fed all our children and she remains beautiful, debunking the myth that breast-feeding can disfigure the body," he said.

Economical

Many of the mothers who took part in the event advocated breast-feeding because of its benefits to their babies. Some said they also considered it economical.

Lydia Angoloan and Shirley Teves, both 37 and residents of Tondo, said milk formula had become too expensive for their budgets.

Glenda Guevarra, 17, said she intended to breast-feed her 6-month-old daughter for more than two years because her eldest, to whom she fed infant formula, was sickly.

With an AP report



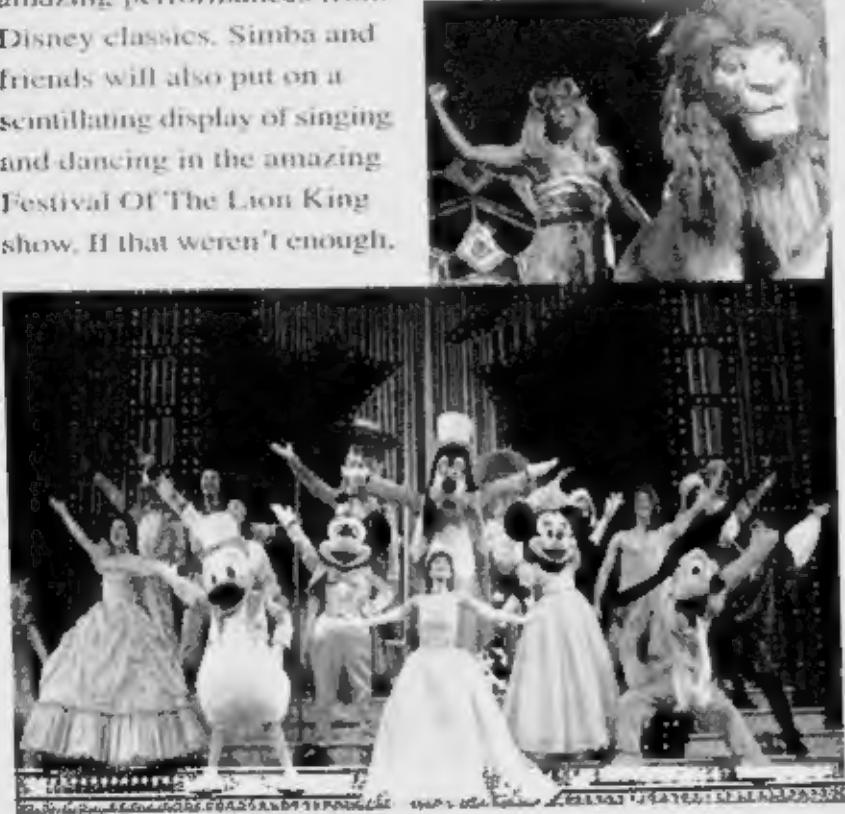
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Tip: Fastpass service is available for most attractions in the park and means you can maximize your fun without the hassle of queuing!



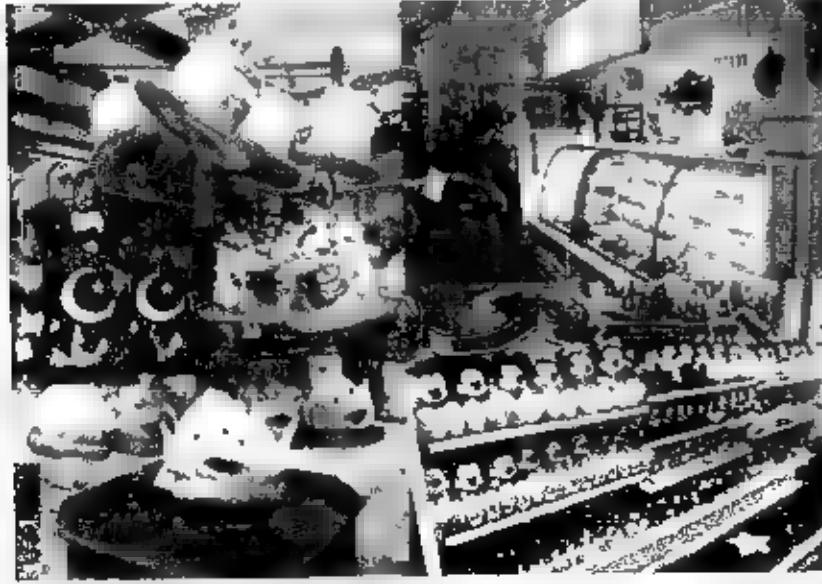
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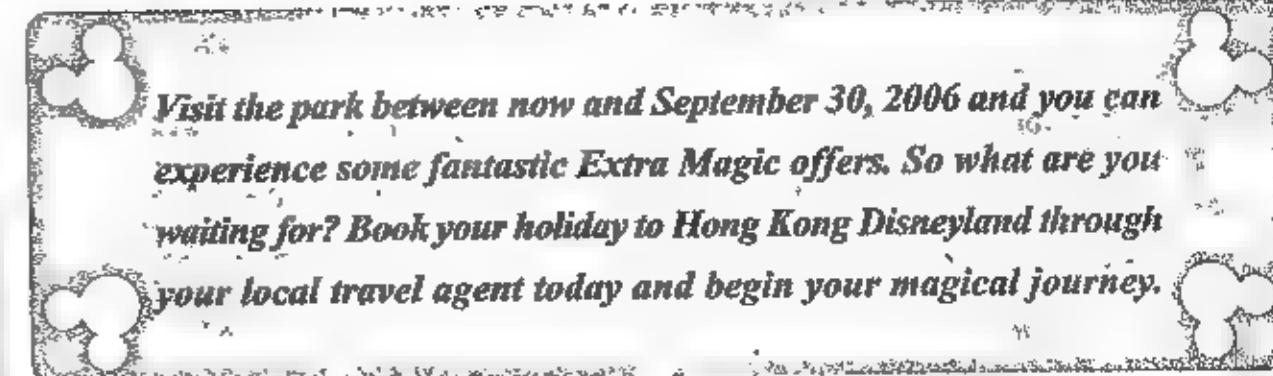
accessories at Space Traders, have your likeness artfully crafted before your eyes at the Silhouette Shop or pick up a magical trinket from Merlin's Treasures. Guests can also have their photos taken by professional photographers and then have them printed at Town Square Photo.



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Delayed relief

WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 1017, the Supreme Court ruled that the President was within her powers in signing the document, but she and other officials went beyond what is constitutional in some of their subsequent actions. Among the actions deemed unconstitutional were the warrantless arrests of administration critics and the raid on the Daily Tribune newspaper. Furthermore, broad hints dropped by the police and administration officials that the government could take over public utilities, including media companies, have been declared improper and constitutionally forbidden without the authorization of Congress.

EDITORIAL In other words, President Macapagal-Arroyo was within her rights to proclaim her state of mind: that a national emergency was taking place. Furthermore, she did not exceed her authority in calling out the Armed Forces and police. But how the police and other officials behaved themselves was wrong.

The administration proposed that the proclamation somehow creates new powers that government can wield, but the Court declared that this is not so. New powers cannot be manufactured, much less used, it said, and inherent powers, particularly emergency powers, are strictly regulated by the Constitution.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, in his concurring opinion, perhaps expressed it best and did so in behalf of concerned citizens who have been expressing similar views when he wrote: "Some of those who drafted PP 1017 may be testing the outer limits of presidential prerogatives and the perseverance of this Court in safeguarding the people's constitutionally enshrined liberty. They are playing with fire, and unless prudently restrained, they may one day wittingly or unwittingly burn down the country. History will never forget, much less forgive, this Court if it allows such misadventure and refuses to strike down abuse at its inception. Worse, our people will surely condemn the misuse of legal hocus pocus to justify this trifling with constitutional sanctities."

The question is, what is going to happen now that the Court has handed down its decision? We do not expect either an apology or an offer of compensation by the administration to those arrested, detained and searched, supposedly by virtue of PP 1017. As we have pointed out previously, repentance and contrition, even in the face of reversals by the courts, aren't hallmarks of the President or her advisers. In which case, it is reasonable to expect that individuals and groups will have to seek legal redress for having been subjected to illegal treatment by agents of the state.

Which brings up a point of great interest to lawyers and non-lawyers alike. If "justice delayed is justice denied," then it must be asked whether our society can afford to let months pass before challenges to official actions that have an immediate, and perhaps irreversible, effect are decided. If the Chief Justice himself fears that "the limits of presidential prerogatives" are being tested and recognizes the need for the courts to "strike down abuse at its inception," isn't there a need for the courts to act upon questionable executive actions sooner instead of later?

The transition between one Chief Justice and his successor may have led to some kind of lag between the filing and resolution of cases. But Panganiban is now firmly in the saddle and will remain there until December. By his own words, he has surveyed the terrain, and sees danger on the horizon. For a society that, on the whole, remains hopeful that the Supreme Court is an impartial and credible mediator not only between branches of government but between officialdom and the citizenry, a better balance between the need to deliberate and the necessity of arriving at decisions that are not mere irrelevancies must be found.

It is for the public to demand that there be accountability on the part of the executive branch which has been declared three times in a row to have gratuitously and dangerously exceeded its authority. But it is for the judiciary to intervene sooner, so that what is wrong can be set right, and not merely declared improper after all the improper objectives of the authorities have been achieved, and thus made irreversible.



Housing project vs water safety

As I See It



Neal H. Cruz

THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY OVER A PROPOSED housing project on 58 hectares of the La Mesa Dam watershed is a quarrel not only between environmentalists and workers of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), as a newspaper headline put it, but really a collision between the wellbeing of 1,411 members of two MWSS labor unions and millions of residents of Metro Manila who get their water from the La Mesa reservoir. A panel of experts from the University of the Philippines commissioned by the MWSS to study the effect of the housing project on the reservoir came out with the recommendation that the "area in the La Mesa watershed proposed as the site of the MWSS housing project (should) remain a protected watershed." The reason: the housing project will pollute the reservoir and therefore the drinking water of Metro Manila.

The La Mesa Dam watershed is 1,700-hectares of mostly forestland in Quezon City. The reservoir itself comprises 700 hectares, and the water supply of Metro Manila comes from it. The rest is forestland whose runoff water flows into the lake.

Back in 1968, two labor unions were granted by management 58 hectares of land near (not within) the La Mesa watershed for a housing project, as part of their collective bargaining agreement. The land was to be sold to the unions at P5.50 per sq m or a total of P3.18 million. The down payment has already been paid. The property was raffled off and awarded to 1,411 union members.

Eventually, however, a new site was designated within the perimeter of the La Mesa watershed. Moreover, whereas the original site was below the reservoir, the new site is above it. Thus water runoff from the housing project will flow down to the reservoir.

Alarmed by the danger the project poses to the safety of the water, the MWSS commissioned a panel of experts from the UP National Hydraulic Research Center (UP-NHRC) to study the threats of the project on the water

quality of the reservoir.

The team, headed by Leonardo Q. Tiengson, director of the UP-NHRC, and six other water experts, spent six months studying and planning how the safety of the water can be assured. It came to the conclusion that no matter what abatement and safety procedures are adopted, the danger of water contamination remains. It recommended, in effect, that the housing project be relocated so that the entire watershed will remain a protected area.

Consequently, MWSS Administrator Orlando C. Hondrada wrote to then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor echoing Professor Liason's concerns and recommendations. He admitted that the proposed 58-hectare housing project "posed a serious threat on the reservoir's water quality and quantity."

The problem is that the Supreme Court, after 38 years, has already affirmed the legality of the contract between the MWSS and the unions. The deal was consummated only last March with the turnover of the absolute deeds of sale to the claimants.

But that is not the end of it. The danger to the health of Metro Manila is so great and real that a growing group of environmentalists, led by Bantay Kalikasan which is now rehabilitating the whole La Mesa watershed and has developed the Eco Park on a part of it, is now appealing that the project be relocated.

Before the project can be started, the DENR must issue an Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC) to make sure it is not harmful to the environment. The DENR said nobody has applied for an ECC yet. And considering the threat

to Metro Manila's water supply, it doesn't think the project will get an ECC.

We cannot be so sure. There are private companies run by former DENR officials and employees specializing in getting ECCs for their clients. They always get them—if the price is right.

But the biggest problem is how to go around the Supreme Court decision which has become final and executory. The beneficiaries will surely hammer on this. Especially because the site has now become prime property, costing thousands of times more than the original acquisition cost, and vested interests, real estate developers and land grabbers are now behind the claimants.

But there is a ray of hope in the horizon. There is a principle in law that says a "supervening event" can render a final and executory decision unenforceable. This means that an event that takes place after a decision has become final and executory, but before the decision is enforced, can make the decision unenforceable. As recently as July 29, 1996, the Court used this "supervening event" principle not to enforce a final and executory decision in *Flores v. Ligon*.

In the La Mesa housing project, there is not only one but two "supervening events" that came after the Court's decision. One is the report and recommendation of the UP-NHRC team on the risks posed by the housing project on the reservoir. The other is the enactment of the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act which provides that all protected areas, such as parks and watersheds, are beyond the commerce of man and cannot be sold or titled to private individuals.

Early this year, the Supreme Court used the same law to declare the garbage dump in San Mateo, Rizal, illegal and order its permanent closure.

Note that in seeking to prevent the housing project inside La Mesa, the workers are not being deprived of homes. The project will merely be transferred to another site. In fact, the MWSS has already offered a property in Antipolo which is double the size of the present site.

Trifling with constitutional sanctities

Passion for Reason



Raul C. Pangalangan

"SOME OF THOSE WHO DRAFTED [PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION] 1017 may be testing the outer limits of presidential [power]. They are playing with fire, and unless prudently restrained, they may one day wittingly or unwittingly burn down the country. Worse, our people will surely condemn the misuse of legal hocus pocus to justify this trifling with constitutional sanctities."

This was stern language from Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, who joined the majority decision and added his separate opinion—"a little comment," he described it—replying to the vigorous dissent by Justice Dante Tinga.

The Supreme Court, in a decision written by Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, went beyond the Court's earlier rulings when President Macapagal-Arroyo issued similar proclamations after the EDSA III assault on Malacañang on Labor Day in May 2001 and the Oakwood Mutiny in August 2003.

One, GMA lifted the state of national emergency while the Court was still hearing this case, and asked the Court to "moot" all legal challenges. GMA is rather fond of this maneuver, as she had done after the Labor Day assault in 2001—and the Court then dismissed the challenge as moot and academic. In David et al., however, the Court insisted that the case be "resolved to prevent future constitutional aberration[s]."

Two, when GMA declared a "state of rebellion" for the second time, following the Oakwood incident in 2003, the Court then said that the declaration was an "utter superfluity" which was "devoid of any legal significance." In David et al., the Court actually struck down as unconstitutional the warrantless arrests of Randy David and Ronald Llanas; the violent dispersal of rallies of Kilusang Mayo Uno; the warrantless raid on the Tribune offices and the "whimsical seizures" of articles for publication; and the prior restraint on the press and the imposition of guidelines on media. All these acts, Gutierrez emphasized, were "not authorized by the Constitution, the law and jurisprudence."

Three, Gutierrez carefully confined the President to measures needed to deal specifically with "lawless violence," that is to say, a situation of chaos, anarchy and looting. She rebuked as "extraneous" the power of the military to enforce laws unrelated to the lawless violence, including presidential decrees that PP 1017 purported to authorize. She warned, as petitioners David et al. had argued, that the President needs congressional authority before she can seize private businesses. She limited this "taking" power solely to economic emergencies, and excluded the national security threats invoked by PP 1017.

Tinga joined by two others, including the most recent high court appointee, Justice Presbitero Velasco (who by the way was not yet on the Court when the 1017 cases were argued), wrote a strong dissent. "I regret ... that the majority ... has imprudently placed the Court in the business of defanging paper tigers." He called the decision an "immodest show of brawn" by the Court for having "departed from the plain language of [PP 1017] to the extent of second-guessing the Chief Executive."

The Chief Justice replied: "The Dissent dismisses all the Petitions, grants no reliefs to petitioners, and finds nothing wrong with PP 1017. Under this line of thinking, it would be perfectly legal for the President to reissue PP 1017 under its present language and nuance." He concluded: "Even Justice Tinga concedes that under PP 1017, the police—to some mind!—may have flirted with power." With due respect, this is a masterful understatement. PP 1017 may be a paper tiger, but—to borrow the colorful words of an erstwhile Asian leader—it has nuclear teeth that

must indeed be defanged.

As I have written earlier in this space, I am a partisan in this case, having argued before the Court (together with professor Harry Roque) in behalf of Randy David, Akbayan president Ronald Llanas and Rep. Lorenzo Tahada III. I disagree with the Court that all these civil rights violations can be separated from PP 1017. Can we thus insulate President Arroyo from all responsibility?

Both the majority and the dissent confirm that those who violate civil liberties must be punished. The President took an oath "to preserve and defend [the] Constitution [and] execute [our] laws." The Constitution says that she "shall ensure that the laws be faithfully executed." Has she called the erring military officers to answer for violations, or has she in fact promoted or rewarded them?

The Court has already thrice rebuffed the President's faulty legal measures: EO 464 and the stifling of the congressional power of inquiry; the calibrated pre-emptive response relied upon to unleash anti-riot police upon civilians; and now, PP 1017. Has she actually disclaimed, disowned, disavowed any of the acts chastised by the Court?

When she signed PP 1017, her Cabinet secretaries declared that this would authorize warrantless arrests and the seizure of private businesses. Under the "alter ego" theory, acts by the Cabinet secretaries are acts by the President. Is she really that distant from the civil rights violations? Since February 24, the day a national emergency was declared, has she taken a single step to correct those who had erred? Or has she embraced their acts as her own?

Felix Frankfurter said: "The accretion of dangerous power does not come in a day. It does come, however slowly, from ... unchecked disregard of the [laws] that fence in [state power]." Elsewhere, US courts have cautioned: "[I]t is legitimate ... practices get their first footing ... by silent approaches and slight deviations ... It is the duty of the courts to [guard] against [such] stealthy encroachments."

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

A3

Rebuffed again

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



IN A SPAN OF TWO WEEKS, THE SUPREME Court has handed down a series of decisions that struck a ringing blow for political liberties and against a threatening authoritarianism.

The Court sharply rebuked President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration with a train of three decisions that sought to curb abuse of executive power as it declared as illegal in a May 3 decision, a clause in Presidential Proclamation 1017 (which declared a national emergency on Feb. 24) giving her authority to issue decrees.

For the first time since it slammed the brakes on the administration's seemingly irresistible lurch toward authoritarian rule, the Court did not mince words in warning the nation that the administration was retracing the introduction of the Marcos dictatorship when the President issued the enabling clause of PP 1017 empowering her "to enforce obedience to all the laws and decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

The Court cited the similarity between the wordings of PP 1017 and President Marcos' Proclamation 1081 declaring martial law in 1972. The clause, which allowed warrantless arrests, prompted Chief Justice Artemio Pangilinan to say, "They (the administration) are playing with fire and, unless prudently restrained, they may one day unwittingly burn down the house."

This latest rebuff by the Court of the administration followed a decision which rolled back portions of Ms Arroyo's Executive Order 464, which banned executive department officials from testifying at congressional inquiries without her permission, and another decision which voided the administration's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy.

The decision on PP 1017 and that on the CPR represent an emphatic blow for individual liberties and reflect the Court's heightening concern over the apparently authoritarian tendencies of the administration. In these decisions, the Court clearly moved beyond issues involving the maintenance of the delicate balance of power between

the executive and legislative departments within the system of checks and balances.

The issue over EO 464 involved separation of powers. The Court's decision upheld the legislative right to compel executive department officials to testify at its inquiries "in aid of legislation," and it also associated such appearances in Congress with the enhancement of the public's "right to know" (through information revealed in the hearings) and "the right to participate" in democratic governance.

However, the decisions on PP 1017 and on CPR directly defended the individual citizen's liberties from abuse in the exercise of state powers by a repressive regime in the course of its struggle for political survival, that has been justified as the "right of the state to defend itself."

This is what makes the decisions more important to the citizens than the decision on EO 464, which is directly relevant to the members of the legislature. The two decisions define their thrust as differentiated from the thrust of the decision on EO 464. Citizens are defenseless against arbitrary and warrantless arrests, while members of Congress have stronger defenses provided by parliamentary immunities.

The direct application of the decision on PP 1017 in protecting the political rights of assembly and freedom of the press was explicitly stated when the Court held that PP 1017 did not justify the imposition of warrantless arrests, the raid on the office of the Daily Tribune and prior restraint on the press. The Court could not have been more emphatic when it ruled that: "The warrantless arrests of Randolph David and Ronald Llamas; the dispersal and

warrantless arrests of the KMU and Naftu-KM members during the rallies, in the absence of proof that they were committing acts constituting lawless violence ... the imposition of standards on media or any form or prior restraint on the press, as well as the warrantless search of the Tribune offices and the seizure of its articles for publication and other materials, are declared unconstitutional."

While the decision offered the President some consolation by saying that declaring a state of national emergency was constitutional, it held that "such declaration does not authorize the President to take over privately owned utilities or business affected with public interests without prior legislation." It also said that PP 1017 "is unconstitutional insofar as it grants President Arroyo the authority to promulgate decrees."

The Court's decisions assume further significance in the context of the administration coming under increasing international criticism over what is perceived to be its authoritarian tendencies. They give authoritative weight to, for example, a recent editorial of the New York Times, which said, in part:

"Earlier this year (President Arroyo) briefly declared a state of emergency in response to allegations of a coup threat that others disputed. Since then she has been intensifying pressure on a wide range of political critics and especially on the press. Government officials have warned news outlets that they will be held to restrictive new guidelines, the justice secretary talks darkly about a journalistic watch list ... No government has made such efforts to muzzle the press since the Marcos era."

"President Bush has repeatedly hailed Mrs. Arroyo as an important ally against international terrorism. He now needs to warn her that by undermining a hard-won democracy, she is making her country far more than vulnerable to terrorist pressures."

Still, the defense of democracy is mainly the responsibility of the Filipinos and their independent institutions.

Docents

"JELLYFISHES DON'T JAM," CARLINA QUIPPED WITH A straight face.

Carlina was this little elderly woman who had been assigned to guide our group around the Monterey Aquarium when I visited last February. She was a walking encyclopedia, ready to answer questions about the exhibits and the Aquarium itself, with a few jokes on the side like the jamming jellyfish.

That's not an easy job, when you consider the varieties of marine life they have in the Aquarium. But Carlina handled it like a breeze, whether explaining how tuna fish get heart attacks from too rich a diet, or the filtration processes for the different aquariums. We think of them mainly as tourist or museum guides, but some of these docents live up to the original Latin meaning of the word, which is "teacher."

I first encountered the term in the Netherlands, where a docent meant a professor. Then a few years ago, while touring a redwoods forest in California, I heard the term again, this time used to refer to the person who was guiding us on a walking tour of the woods. He knew everything about these giant trees, from the way they reproduce to how they gave the city of Palo Alto its name. (I could imagine the early settlers looking at the trees and gasping, "Palo alto!" That's Spanish for tall trees.)

Docents do all this without salaries, almost like a hobby. During the week, our redwoods forest docent earned a living as a computer programmer, while Carina had long retired but still had the stamina to docent in the aquarium.

Ku Klux Katipunan

Impressed with the docents I met in the United States, I've often wondered if we had similar volunteers in the Philippines. I got my answer the other week when Ken Esguerra of the Ayala Museum called and asked if I could lecture at a training workshop for their museum docents.

I got extremely short notice, but I said yes right away, thrilled that we did have docents here. In the case of the Ayala Museum, these docents' main function is to guide people around the museum's famous dioramas, which give a brief but comprehensive overview of the history of the Philippines from the precolonial period to the present.

A docent needs to be ready to answer all kinds of questions. I've had a taste of these questions doing my own informal docent work with foreign friends whom I bring to the Ayala Museum. For example, one time, in front of a diorama depicting a secret Katipunan ritual, with its members in white hoods, one of my American visitors exclaimed with distress, "Oh dear, is that the Ku Klux Klan?"

It was easy explaining that the Ku Klux Klan never established a foothold here. More difficult was going into details about the Katipunan, starting with its kilometric full name. You give it a try: Karaataasang Kagalanggalangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan.

History's stories

Like docents elsewhere, the Ayala Museum's volunteers work out of a love for the museum. They're asked to put in at least four hours a month, whether as guides or as researchers. In exchange, they get free admission to the museum, discounts at the shop and invitations to all the museum events.

I think, though, that their greatest perk is the teaching and learning experiences. To teach, docents need to keep learning, and the museum gives a good head start with the training workshop.

Inquirer columnist Manolo Quezon, who handles much of the docent training, briefed me right before the workshop, and explained that the training wasn't meant so much to give facts and figures than to help the docents to think differently about history itself and make it more alive and relevant. I watched as he tried to do this with the docents themselves, asking them to share what they knew about the origins of their surnames and their hometowns.

I tried to do something similar with the pre-colonial period, getting them to think about the stories behind each of the dioramas. For example, I reminded them that when there's trade, there are all kinds of social interactions, people learning about each other's cultures and borrowing words for the supernatural as well as for the mundane, such as food. Trade lubricated the borrowing of words from Arabic, Japanese, Malay, Chinese, and that includes terms to describe the feelings hosts and visitors had. (Here's one example I didn't use in Ayala: the word "mahal" is imported, and I don't think we adopted it in the context of trading alone.)

Columnists and docents

We need to train docents throughout the country. I am certain even the smallest and most remote of our towns already have potential docents. Elderly people are already telling and retelling their stories to their captive audiences, meaning their grandchildren, so why not get them to do this for the town's visitors as well?

In Palawan, I once visited a mangrove area with local residents serving as guides and explaining the flora and fauna. I felt the tour was a bit too mechanical, too facts-and-figures in its approach, but it was a good start.

I guess in a way columnists like Manolo and myself find affinity with docents because doing a column is one variation on docent work. We get paid for our column, but beyond the writing, we often put in much time and effort for research, for interviewing people, for finding ways to transform learning into a fun process. That's a docent's work.

Docents, and columnists, work with a sense of mission. When I have American visitors, I stay longer with the dioramas depicting the Filipino-American war, talking about the hardships Filipinos went through, as well as the anti-imperialist movement in the United States, which included the likes of Mark Twain. A recent visitor said sorry, she had not known about that war, and then lamented, "How sad that we're repeating our mistakes—this time in Iraq." (The regular docents told me they've also had Japanese visitors apologizing for World War II, completely with the bowing.)

But docents should be more than glorified tourist guides for foreigners. Even more importantly, the work of a docent is to bridge the generations among Filipinos. There's much docents can do—organizing heritage tours, eating tours, nature tours—and we should be doing this with our own hometowns, retrieving the knowledge from older people and passing this on to the young. Each child, who is fortunate to have a good docent, will remember the stories for life, taking away insights that will give him or her a better sense of who we are as a people.

Nature watch

Try to visit the UP Diliman campus this weekend. The fire trees (also sometimes called flame trees) are beginning to bloom. If you're lucky, you should be able to catch the sun; flowers we planted for our new graduates.

A tree watch could also be combined with a bird watch. Mike Lu of the Wild Bird Society texted me the other day about how, in their neighborhood, the regal fire trees seem to succeed quite well in calling in the birds. One of his neighbors has spotted, among others, kingfishers, woodpeckers and kiskis (the winged type).

Houses, churches and 'abel'

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

"TO UNDERSTAND ILOCANOS, YOU NEED TO understand our culture and traditions," declared Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. at the start of the launching ceremonies of this year's Filipino Heritage Festival.

And if anyone needed proof of this, the launch of the month-long festival showed just how much value Ilocanos place on their history and heritage.

St. Augustine Church of Paaoay was fittingly the setting for the festival's launch. A Unesco World Heritage Site, the church took 16 years to build (1694-1710), originally from baked brick, corals, tree sap, sand, lime, sugarcane, straw and other local materials. Its distinctive profile—square with a curvy roofline, with 24 step buttresses showcasing classic "swirls"—has long served as a symbol of Ilocano heritage, particularly the province's many distinctive Catholic churches, some dating back to hundreds of years.

After the Sunday Mass, we walked to Herencia de Paaoay, where tall shady trees provided some relief from the summer heat as we partook of brunch, listened to speeches and watched a re-enactment of the Guling-guling Festival, a parade of street dances which is usually held just before Holy Week.

From there, we proceeded to a nearby elementary school where 'abel' Ilocano, sturdy cotton weaves in unique colors and patterns, was showcased. Different towns and tribes have their own patterns and styles, with the cloth crafted into fabric, blankets, pillowcases, table cloths and runners, shirts, bags and even headwear.

THREE residences in Paaoay are honored as "heritage sites," and two of them, the Carpio House and the Diaz House, both built in the bahay na bato style and called "white houses," stand next to each other near the town center.

Because we were having dinner at the Diaz house, we toured the Carpio house next door, with Conchita Carpio Claudio as our most informative guide.

Though it has undergone some renovation, particularly the wooden floor which was installed to replace the original planks that had

rotted through, the Carpio house retains much of its original appearance. The Carpio family has had a long history of civic service, starting with an ancestor who served as one of the earliest capitanes or mayors of the town, and records of the family members' accomplishments, as well as personal memorabilia of several generations, are lovingly preserved and displayed.

Next on the schedule was a residence that had been recognized during the Guling-guling Festival as a nearly century old structure, a small but constructed of wood and nipa. Aside from touring the humble home, we were also treated to a basket-making demonstration, as well as a display of traditional Ilocano kitchen implements.

The last home in Paaoay that we visited is just over 50 years old but is considered a heritage structure because of its octagonal shape. The Duque House was the concept of Constance Duque, who came back to Ilocos Norte some time in the 1940s after studies in the United States where he presumably imbibed unorthodox ideas about architecture. The house will soon be undergoing restoration, with the cost shouldered by the family daughter Duquesa announced proudly.

WE then motored to Laoag, where we visited the Museo Ilocos Norte, an award-winning institution that occupies an abandoned tobacco warehouse. Intelligent and most creatively curated, the Museo showcases the ethnic and folkloric heritage of Ilocos Norte, walking visitors through ancient Ilocos, the markets and villages of the province, farmers' homes and on to the traditional bahay na bato. The Museo is apparently a very popular tourist destination, as busloads of

EASILY the highlight of the festival launch was the concert of Cecile Licad and other artists inside Paaoay Church, which had been transformed into a beautiful concert venue, the first such cultural event to be held inside the historic church.

Very popular with the audience were the Ilocano airs by tenor Lemuel dela Cruz and soprano Alexis Edralin, while young pianist Bianca Montanez charmed her provincemates with a Schubert piece. Licad captured the hearts of the audience not just with her powerful playing, but more so with her impassioned approach, her total immersion in the music, her physicality and lyricism. It was truly a most magical experience and a grand setting for a truly world-class artist.

The launch ended the next day, with dinner at Malacanang ti Amianan, set on a hillside above Paaoay Lake. Things came to a literally explosive end, with a grand fireworks display courtesy of Ricky Crisostomo of La Mancha Fireworks, the same outfit that brought us the Fireworks Olympics over the Christmas season. No matter how many times we see a fireworks display, we're never jaded, and the show we watched Monday night was more awe-inspiring than most.

My personal thanks to Dr. Purito Catubay and the rest of the ER staff of the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital in Batac for all their help when I met an accident (it's a long story) inside Paaoay Church, just before the concert. Save for a few bruises, I've obviously lived to write another column!

matic herbs, while the principals massage it with clvet, ambergris and musk, so that they always have a pleasant scent."

Alcina found men who wore their hair long "effeminate" and even cited St. Paul who "characterized long hair as highly improper." But it was the women and their coiffure that he described in detail. I was surprised that Visayans already used false hair over 400 years ago.

"Many of them have a curl which they wear in ringlets about the forehead without any irons or instruments [hair pins]. They tie up the hair with some gracefulness at the back of the head, rather than high on the crown and in a rose-like fashion almost as large as the head itself. They take great delight in making it bigger and bigger; so that rare is a woman who does not add a mass of false hair [into her own] so as to create a spiral-like effect (or rosettes). Although these hair arrangements do fit well, they cause a great strain on the hairline near the forehead and thereby bring about baldness to some of them even in their youth. And so, for the adornment which they so sought to add to their hair, they had to pay for it with eventual ugliness even if they want to hide it. Also, to this said rosette of hair, they added flowers and fragrant herbs, which they called arganaisar, which means 'something that adds to the beauty.' (This seems to be a habitual weakness of all women. Even these women in this unpolished civilization were tainted with it, for any matter how uncomely one may seem, there is always a strong penchant to appear beautiful.)"

One has to be critical though, to see through Alcina's biases. Why should anyone be faulted for wanting to be beautiful? Seeing the Visayans through the eyes of a 17th-century Jesuit can be very refreshing.

Comments are welcome at ocampo@ateneo.edu

LOOKING BACK

Amber R. Ocampo



as if they were Flemish. Some years ago, I baptized a child who was so blonde and white and with blue eyes, together with other similar characteristics, as if he had been born in Holland. The parents were very brown and free from any immoral suspicion, due to the fact that they lived in an out-of-the-way place and without any contact with white people; the mother was ugly and had no mixture of foreign blood... Similarly, a woman in Manila had in her home a girl, born of kafir parentage, with the same characteristics. Both had poor sight in the daytime because of their very blue color.

The eminent anthropologist P. Landa Jocano once told me that if you read the 16th-century, contact-period, Spanish accounts of the Philippines and Filipinos, you would see similarities between our time and theirs. Hair is a good example because we have so many shampoos and conditioners being advertised today. He suggested mining these old accounts not only to understand ourselves but also to help in the marketing of certain products:

"[Women's hair] receive [more] attention than any other part of the body. Often they would permit it to grow so long that it would sometimes touch the ground; it's so thick that they would bunch it up. They take extreme care in keeping it clean and well combed, washing it many times a year with some bark of a tree which acts like soap. They treat it with various types of fragrant oils, of which the most common is sesame. They say it makes the hair grow better and also kills the lice. [The women] perfume it with flowers and aromatic herbs, while the principals massage it with clvet, ambergris and musk, so that they always have a pleasant scent."

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FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

OPINION

A13

Rebuffed again

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



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For the first time since it slammed the brakes on the administration's seemingly irresistible lurch toward authoritarian rule, the Court did not mince words in warning the nation that the administration was retracing the introduction of the Marcos dictatorship when the President issued the enabling clause of PP 1017 empowering her "To enforce obedience to all the laws and decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

The Court cited the similarity between the wordings of PP 1017 and President Marcos' Proclamation 1081 declaring martial law in 1972. The clause, which allowed warrantless arrests, prompted Chief Justice Artemio Pangalangan to say, "They (the administration) are playing with fire and, unless prudently restrained, they may one day unwittingly burn down the house."

This latest rebuff by the Court of the administration followed a decision which rolled back portions of Ms Arroyo's Executive Order 464, which banned executive department officials from testifying at congressional inquiries without her permission, and another decision which voided the administration's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy.

The decision on PP 1017 and that on the CPR represent an emphatic blow for individual liberties and reflect the Court's heightening concern over the apparently authoritarian tendencies of the administration. In these decisions, the Court clearly moved beyond issues involving the maintenance of the delicate balance of power between

Houses, churches and 'abel'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



"TO UNDERSTAND ILOCANOS, YOU NEED TO understand our culture and traditions," declared Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. at the start of the launching ceremonies of this year's Filipino Heritage Festival.

And if anyone needed proof of this, the launch of the month-long festival showed just how much value Ilocanos place on their history and heritage.

St. Augustine Church of Paay was fittingly the setting for the festival's launch. A Unesco World Heritage Site, the church took 16 years to build (1694-1710), originally from baked brick, corals, tree sap, sand, lime, sugarcane, straw and other local materials. Its distinctive profile—squat with a curvy roofline, with 24 step buttresses showcasing classic "swirls"—has long served as a symbol of Ilocano heritage, particularly the province's many distinctive Catholic churches, some dating back to hundreds of years.

After the Sunday Mass, we walked to Herencia de Paay, where tall shady trees provided some relief from the summer heat as we partook of brunch, listened to speeches and watched a re-enactment of the Guling-guling Festival, a parade of street dances which is usually held just before Holy Week.

From there, we proceeded to a nearby elementary school where abel Ilocano, sturdy cotton weaves in unique colors and patterns, was showcased. Different towns and tribes have their own patterns and styles, with the cloth crafted into fabric, blankets, pillowcases, table cloths and runners, shirts, bags and even headwear.

THREE residences in Paay are honored as "heritage sites," and two of them, the Carpio House and the Diaz House, both built in the bahay na bato style and called "white houses," stand next to each other near the town center.

Because we were having dinner at the Diaz house, we toured the Carpio house next door, with Conchita Carpio Claudio as our most informative guide.

Though it has undergone some renovation, particularly the wooden floor which was installed to replace the original planks that had

rotted through, the Carpio house retains much of its original appearance. The Carpio family has had a long history of civic service, starting with an ancestor who served as one of the earliest captains or mayors of the town, and records of the family members' accomplishments, as well as personal memorabilia of several generations, are lovingly preserved and displayed.

Next on the schedule was a residence that had been recognized during the Guling-guling Festival as a nearly century old structure, a small hut constructed of wood and nipa. Aside from touring the humble home, we were also treated to a basket-making demonstration, as well as a display of traditional Ilocano kitchen implements.

The last home in Paay that we visited is just over 50 years old but is considered a heritage structure because of its octagonal shape. The Duque House was the concept of Constance Duque, who came back to Ilocos Norte some time in the 1940s after studies in the United States where he presumably imbibed unorthodox ideas about architecture. The house will soon be undergoing restoration, with the cost shouldered by the family daughter Duquesa announced proudly.

WE then motored to Laoag, where we visited the Museo Ilocos Norte, an award-winning institution that occupies an abandoned tobacco warehouse. Intelligent and most creatively curated, the Museo showcases the ethnic and folkloric heritage of Ilocos Norte, walking visitors through ancient Ilocos, the markets and villages of the province, farmers' homes and on to the traditional bahay na bato. The Museo is apparently a very popular tourist destination, as busloads of

warrantless arrests of the KMU and Naflu-KM members during the rallies, in the absence of proof that they were committing acts constituting lawless violence... the imposition of standards on media or any form or prior restraint on the press, as well as the warrantless search of the Tribune offices and the seizure of its articles for publication and other materials, are declared unconstitutional."

While the decision offered the President some consolation by saying that declaring a state of national emergency was constitutional, it held that "such declaration does not authorize the President to take over privately owned utilities or business affected with public interests without prior legislation." It also said that PP 1017 "is unconstitutional insofar as it grants President Arroyo the authority to promulgate decrees."

The Court's decisions assume further significance in the context of the administration coming under increasing international criticism over what is perceived to be its authoritarian tendencies. They give authoritative weight to, for example, a recent editorial of the New York Times, which said, in part:

"Earlier this year (President Arroyo) briefly declared a state of emergency in response to allegations of a coup threat that others disputed. Since then she has been intensifying pressure on a wide range of political critics and especially on the press. Government officials have warned news outlets that they will be held to restrictive new guidelines, the justice secretary talks darkly about a journalistic watch list... No government has made such efforts to muzzle the press since the Marcos era."

"President Bush has repeatedly hailed Mrs. Arroyo as an important ally against international terrorism. He now needs to warn her that by undermining a hard-won democracy, she is making her country far more than vulnerable to terrorist pressures."

Still, the defense of democracy is mainly the responsibility of the Filipinos and their independent institutions.

Japanese and Korean tourists were unloaded in just the few minutes we were there.

From there, we proceeded to the Dap-ayan ti Ilocos, a fast-food court with stalls displaying and selling arts, crafts and local delicacies, where we partook of merienda of native fare like piping hot Ilocano empanada. While at the Dap-ayan, we were also treated to a fashion show of outfits crafted out of abel, serving as well as a history lesson on the evolution of such traditional garb as the terno, the Maria Clara and the barong.

EASILY the highlight of the festival launch was the concert of Cecile Licad and other artists inside Paay Church, which had been transformed into a beautiful concert venue, the first such cultural event to be held inside the historic church.

Very popular with the audience were the Ilocano airs by tenor Lemuel dela Cruz and soprano Alexis Edralin, while young pianist Bianca Montanez charmed her compatriots with a Schubert piece. Licad captured the hearts of the audience not just with her powerful playing, but more so with her impassioned approach, her total immersion in the music, her physicality and lyricism. It was truly a most magical experience and a grand setting for a truly world-class artist.

The launch ended the next day, with dinner at Malacañang ti Amianan, set on a hillside above Paay Lake. Things came to a literally explosive end, with a grand fireworks display courtesy of Ricky Crisostomo of La Mancha Fireworks, the same outfit that brought us the Fireworks Olympics over the Christmas season. No matter how many times we see a fireworks display, we're never jaded, and the show we watched Monday night was more awe-inspiring than most.

My personal thanks to Dr. Purito Catubay and the rest of the ER staff of the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital in Batac for all their help when I met an accident (it's a long story) inside Paay Church, just before the concert. Save for a few bruises, I've obviously lived to write another column!

matic herbs, while the principals massage it with civet, ambergris and musk, so that they always have a pleasant scent."

Alcina found men who wore their hair long "effeminate" and even cited St. Paul who "characterized [long hair] as highly improper." But it was the women and their coiffure that he described in detail. I was surprised that Visayans already used false hair over 400 years ago:

"Many of them have a curl which they wear in ringlets about the forehead without any irons or instruments [hair pins]. They tie up the hair with some gracefulness at the back of the head, rather than high on the crown and in a rose-like fashion almost as large as the head itself. They take great delight in making it bigger and bigger; so that rare is a woman who does not keep adding a mass of false hair [into her own] so as to create a spiral-like effect (or rosettes). Although these hair arrangements do fit well, they cause a great strain on the hairline near the forehead and thereby bring about baldness to some of them even in their youth. And so, for the adornment which they so sought to add to their hair, they had to pay for it with eventual ugliness even if they want to hide it. Also, to this said rosette of hair, they added flowers and fragrant herbs, which they called tigobatbat, which means 'something that adds to the beauty.' (This seems to be a habitual weakness of all women. Even these women in this unpolished civilization were tainted with it, for no matter how uncomely one may seem, there is always a strong penchant to appear beautiful.)"

One has to be critical though, to see through Alcina's biases. Why should anyone be faulted for wanting to be beautiful? Seeing the Visayans through the eyes of a 17th-century Jesuit can be very refreshing.

Comments are welcome at ocampo@ateneo.edu

Docents

"JELLYFISHES DON'T JAM," CARLINA QUIPPED WITH A straight face.

Carlina was this little elderly woman who had been assigned to guide our group around the Monterey Aquarium when I visited last February. She was a walking encyclopedia, ready to answer questions about the exhibits and the Aquarium itself, with a few jokes on the side like the jamming jellyfish.

That's not an easy

job, when you consider the varieties of marine life they have in the Aquarium. But Carlina handled it like a breeze, whether explaining how tuna fish get heart attacks from too rich a diet, or the filtration processes for the different aquaria. We think of them mainly as tourist or museum guides, but some of these docents live up to the original Latin meaning of the word, which is "teacher."

I first encountered the term in the Netherlands, where a docent meant a professor. Then a few years ago, while touring a redwoods forest in California, I heard the term again, this time used to refer to the person who was guiding us on a walking tour of the woods. He knew everything about these giant trees, from the way they reproduce to how they gave the city of Palo Alto its name. (I could imagine the early settlers looking at the trees and gasping, "Palo alto!" That's Spanish for tall trees.)

Docents do all this without salaries, almost like a hobby. During the week, our redwoods forest docent earned a living as a computer programmer, while Carlina had long retired but still had the stamina to docent in the aquarium.

Ku Klux Katipunan

Impressed with the docents I met in the United States, I've often wondered if we had similar volunteers in the Philippines. I got my answer the other week when Ken Esguerra of the Ayala Museum called and asked if I could lecture at a training workshop for their museum docents.

I got extremely short notice, but I said yes right away, thrilled that we did have docents here. In the case of the Ayala Museum, these docents' main function is to guide people around the museum's famous dioramas, which give a brief but comprehensive overview of the history of the Philippines from the precolonial period to the present.

A docent needs to be ready to answer all kinds of questions. I've had a taste of these questions doing my own informal docent work with foreign friends whom I bring to the Ayala Museum. For example, one time, in front of a diorama depicting a secret Katipunan ritual, with its members in white hoods, one of my American visitors exclaimed with distress, "Oh dear, is that the Ku Klux Klan?"

It was easy explaining that the Ku Klux Klan never established a foothold here. More difficult was going into details about the Katipunan, starting with its kilometric full name. You give it a try: Kataastaasang Kagalanggalangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan.

History's stories

Like docents elsewhere, the Ayala Museum's volunteers work out of a love for the museum. They're asked to put in at least four hours a month, whether as guides or as researchers. In exchange, they get free admission to the museum, discounts at the shop and invitations to all the museum events.

I think, though, that their greatest perk is the teaching and learning experiences. To teach, docents need to keep learning, and the museum gives a good head start with the training workshop.

Inquirer columnist Manolo Quezon, who handles much of the docent training, briefed me right before the workshop, and explained that the training wasn't meant so much to give facts and figures than to help the docents to think differently about history itself and make it more alive and relevant. I watched as he tried to do this with the docents themselves, asking them to share what they knew about the origins of their surnames and their hometowns.

I tried to do something similar with the pre-colonial period, getting them to think about the stories behind each of the dioramas. For example, I reminded them that when there's trade, there are all kinds of social interactions, people learning about each other's cultures and borrowing words for the supernatural as well as for the mundane, such as food. Trade lubricated the borrowing of words from Arabic, Javanese, Malay, Chinese, and that includes terms to describe the feelings hosts and visitors had. (Here's one example I didn't use in Ayala: the word "maka" is imported, and I don't think we adopted it in the context of trading alone.)

Columnists and docents

We need to train docents throughout the country. I am certain even the smallest and most remote of our towns already have potential docents. Elderly people are already telling and retelling their stories to their captive audiences, meaning their grandchildren, so why not get them to do this for the town's visitors as well?

In Palawan, I once visited a mangrove area with local residents serving as guides and explaining the flora and fauna. I felt the tour was a bit too mechanical, too facts-and-figures in its approach, but it was a good start.

I guess in a way columnists like Manolo and myself find affinity with docents because doing a column is one variation on docent work. We get paid for our columns, but beyond the writing, we often put in much time and effort for research, for interviewing people, for finding ways to transform learning into a fun process. That's a docent's work.

Docents, and columnists, work with a sense of mission. When I have American visitors, I stay longer with the dioramas depicting the Filipino-American war talking about the hardships Filipinos went through, as well as the anti-imperialist movement in the United States, which included the likes of Mark Twain. A recent visitor said sorry, she had not known about that war, and then lamented, "How sad that we're repeating our mistakes—this time in Iraq." (The regular docents told me they've also had Japanese visitors apologizing for World War II, completely with the bowing.)

But docents should be more than glorified tourist guides for foreigners. Even more importantly, the work of a docent is to bridge the generations among Filipinos. There's much docents can do—organizing heritage tours, eating tours, nature tours—and we should be doing this with our own hometowns, retrieving the knowledge from older people and passing this on to the young. Each child, who is fortunate to have a good docent, will remember the stories for life, taking away insights that will give him or her a better sense of who we are as a people.

Nature watch

Try to visit the UP Diliman campus this weekend. The fire trees (also sometimes called flame trees) are beginning to bloom. If you're lucky, you should be able to catch the sunflowers we planted for our new graduates.

A tree watch could also be combined with a bird watch. Mike Liu of the Wild Bird Society texted me the other day about how, in their neighborhood, the regal fire trees seem to succeed quite well in calling in the birds. One of his neighbors has spotted, among others, kingfishers, woodpeckers and kiskisis (the winged type).

LOOKING BACK

Amber R. Ocampo



as if they were Flemish. Some years ago, I baptized a child who was so blonde and white and with blue eyes, together with other similar characteristics, as if he had been born in Holland. The parents were very brown and free from any immoral suspicion, due to the fact that they lived in an out-of-the-way place and without any contact with white people; the mother was ugly and had no mixture of foreign blood... Similarly, a woman in Manila had in her home a girl, born of kafir parentage, with the same characteristics. Both had poor sight in the daytime because of their very blue color."

The eminent anthropologist F. Landa Jocano once told me that if you read the 16th-century, contact-period, Spanish accounts of the Philippines and Filipinos, you would see similarities between our time and theirs. Hair is a good example because we have so many shampoos and conditioners being advertised today. He suggested mining these old accounts not only to understand ourselves but also to help in the marketing of certain products:

"[Women's hair] receive [more] attention than any other part of the body. Often they would permit it to grow so long that it would sometimes touch the ground; it's so thick that they would bunch it up. They take extreme care in keeping it clean and well combed, washing it many times a year with some bark of a tree which acts like soap. They treat it with various types of fragrant oils, of which the most common is sesame. They say it makes the hair grow better and also kills the lice. [The women] perfume it with flowers and aro-

Insensitivity to 'scared' women

THE COLUMN, "THAT BOGUS DOCTOR," of Rina Jimenez-David (PDI, 4/23/06) really struck home. I am ashamed to say that I am one of the more than 560,000 women a year who are misled about hysterectomy. Worse than that, I allowed my ovaries to be removed.

The medical terminology for this is female castration, yet you never hear it spoken in polite society. It's in the medical journals and textbooks, but it is deliberately not used with patients for fear of "scaring" them. Well, women should be scared. We all know what the word castration means for the males of any species, including humans. We are also aware of the personality changes, health issues, loss of energy and most certainly, the sexual changes that removing the gonads (castration) brings to males.

Therefore, because the ovaries are the female gonads (the real medical term),

can anyone tell me how it is possible, in this day and age, for women to be kept so ill-informed of the consequences of removing them?

I am bringing this matter up because polite society's "shame" to talk about it has led millions of women to suffer in silence and kept them from speaking out about their post-operative "problems." The few who do dare to speak out or question authority are promptly brushed aside by the medical profession in general.

In my case, hysterectomy has been completely devastating to my overall health, work, family and sex life. I have discovered, quite by accident, nearly 20 other women in my area who feel they, too, were victimized by the same doctor. Each woman I spoke with said this doctor expressed surprise and disbelief when they tried to tell him how they felt. But the doctor is unfazed, in total denial of any harm done, and he continues to have

a thriving practice.

What most people do not realize is that there is no "system" in place looking out for women like us and women will remain vulnerable to this epidemic of outdated, unresearched, harmful and unnecessary method of surgery until we become truly informed and demand safer alternatives.

David's column on "That bogus doctor," helped break the silence that kept women in the dark for so long. She helped educate women about the serious risks of hysterectomy and about the safer, less drastic treatments they should be demanding from their health care providers. On behalf of all the women who I hope will never follow in my footsteps, I thank Rina Jimenez-David.

—TESS HOPE

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Who are not paying their taxes honestly?

her led by Jose de Venecia and her supporters like Jose Pidal.

How could Rodriguez come up with his conclusions when he is not even in this country? But, of course, Rodriguez has spare cash to go some place else and escape the hard life in this sinking republic, which I will always be proud to call my home, but which he is glad to be out of.

I know that those who live along railroads and riverbanks, like the rest of the 65 percent of Filipinos, have dreams as grand as Rodriguez's. Except that we prefer—for many it is the only option—to strive to make this land a better place to live in. I know this is a harder choice. But it's worth a shot. My country is always worth another try.

Rodriguez asked, "Why discredit the leader?" I thought I heard GMA say "I'm sorry" for having discredited herself (no help needed there) by calling an election official during the elections. Her lack of *delicadeza* to step down discredits her even more every day that she clings to power. And Rodriguez urged, "Let the President do her job." Of course! Yes, I will support whoever is in Malacañang provided he or she won the presidency fair and square. More than 65 percent of Filipinos know GMA did not.

—JAMES MICHAEL QUIZON,
breakingpoint8@yahoo.com

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IN A LETTER PUBLISHED LAST APRIL 5, Roland Rodriguez disparaged the Filipinos who want Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo out (all 65 percent of them) as "non-taxpayers, power-hungry politicians, turncoats and deposed presidents and ex-presidents who have nothing better to do."

Now that's funny. I believe I'm dutifully paying my taxes and I do want GMA out.

My college-educated friends want GMA out. My high school-graduate friends who work as construction workers, waiters and office assistants—who, by the way, get their hard-earned wages minus withholding taxes—want GMA out. Believe it or not, Filipinos who want to stay put in the Philippines and those who have no opportunity to leave this country want GMA out. They may not want to disturb the status quo for fear of unpredictable consequences and worse alternatives. But they do want GMA out.

Rodriguez accused us of having been "paid to go against the President with tax money or 'earnings' from corrupt and greedy politicians." Where is the money? God knows I need it now to pay for our ever-rising electricity and water bills.

But wait, what about the Filipinos who want her to stay in office (the 35 percent)? Are they paying taxes honestly? Look at the traditional politicians around

The parents' duty

ELEUTERIO AROSOS ASKED IN HIS LETTER: "With a crisis rocking our country, can teachers still produce good leaders?" (PDI, 4/27/06) He also noted that it "is now torture for a teacher to spend energy, day after day, year after year, making children understand and appreciate the things that really count in life, or trying to inculcate in them the values of honesty, integrity, obedience and truth."

"Have teachers, perhaps, failed to teach our young the proper values?"

While children may be spending more time in school with their teachers than at home with their parents, it is nevertheless the parents who have the greater responsibility of educating their offspring and inculcating in them the right values and morals.

The primary duty of training children in the way they should go and be (and the labor of love that comes with that duty) falls squarely on the shoulders of parents. Neither teachers nor religious leaders should take that role, and neither should parents relegate that responsibility.

—OSCAR RAGUS,

oscar_ragus@yahoo.com

Illegitimate ruler

THE "GLORIAGATE" CRISIS WILL NOT END as long as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo continues to arrogate power unto herself. There will always be thousands or hundreds of thousands or even millions of unheard voices your pages cannot hope to accommodate.

As an individual there may not be much that I can do to end this crisis. But I will not stop speaking. Rather, I will continue to join the clamor for Ms Arroyo to resign.

I will continue to encourage those who share my views not to waver and to help convince others of the nobility of this undertaking. I hope to awaken the latent patriotism among my countrymen.

As an individual I can join the chorus of the untold many whose collective voices will gather strength, grow in number and ring out louder so that someday our united cries will reverberate throughout the land. I hereby ask civil servants to exercise civil disobedience by not rendering service to this illegitimate ruler.

I implore the conscientious members of the military and the police to refuse to take orders from this power-grabber who is merely using her and her family's ulterior and personal objectives.

I pray to Almighty God to intervene as He did at Edsa People Power I and II and prevent Filipinos from killing one another and ultimately help select citizens with moral ascendancy to govern and impose law and order in this place we call Pilipinas Naging Mahal.

God bless the Philippines.—Ramon Mayuga, Germany (via e-mail)

Everybody's wish is to end this crisis. It's not GMA who is in crisis, it's the millions of Filipinos.

Why is it that every Filipino politician who gets hold of power never wants to let go?

In the United Kingdom, David Blunkett, the former Home Office secretary, resigned one of the powerful positions because of a controversy around his name (because of a Filipina nanny whose visa application he was said to speed up).—Prexy Sibol (via e-mail)

The political crisis will start to wane once the media acknowledge that they are also at fault, and that they can do much to ease the political tension. It is very noticeable that little good news is put in the headlines, while the bad news is kept there for days.

We are moving forward but we continue to be derailed by sensationalized bad news.—Dan Nino (via e-mail)

No doubt, the majority of Filipinos want President Arroyo out. However, she cannot be ousted because of a lack of a better replacement. In my view, the only solution is to find "the one" who enjoys the confidence and trust of the majority. Float "the one" and see how fast the transition will happen.

Surely, we don't need an oracle to know who is "the one."—Emmy Masola (via e-mail)

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Release of 5 farmers held incommunicado urged

LUCENA CITY—MILITANT LEADERS yesterday called for the immediate release of five farmers who were arrested in Tagaytay City and held incommunicado on suspicion they were members of the New People's Army.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said the rights of the farmers, whom he called Tagaytay 5, were

blatantly violated by policemen.

Mariano made the call after reports quoted Cavite Rep. Jesus Crispin "Boying" Remulla and Cavite police intelligence chief Supt. Rodel Sermonia as saying that the arrested men were indeed leaders of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

magsasaka-Ka).

"I hope Boying and the provincial intelligence officer's statements will pave the way for the immediate release of the 'Tagaytay 5' from arbitrary detention," Mariano, concurrent chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

The five arrested farmers are Axel Alejandro Pingpin, Aries Sarmiento, Riel Custodio, Michael Masayes, and Rico Ybafiez.

They were arrested by the police and military in Tagaytay City last Friday.

He said this was a brazen violation of the farmers' right to

due process.

On Monday, the police reported the arrest in Tagaytay of six suspected NPA members who allegedly planned to sabotage Labor Day rallies in Metro Manila.

Remulla said three of the five arrested men were legitimate peasant leaders in his

district.

The Cavite lawmaker also raised doubts over the report that Pingpin, Custodio and Sarmiento were arrested after attending a meeting with other communist rebels in Tagaytay.

Sermonia also said the arrested men were indeed peasant leaders.

KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos also asked the police to immediately release the suspects.

In a text message, Ramos said there was no Marvin Galang among the group when arrested, refuting the revised police report that said six were arrested and not five.

"That Marvin Galang is now part of the police plan to muddle the investigation. We suspect that the fellow is another military asset out to weave tales to implicate the five," Ramos said. Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Across the NATION

Gov, 3 execs named in overprice of medicines

ONE of the busted tires lie on runway of the Zamboanga International Airport. PDI PHOTO

Zambo airport reopens after plane towed out

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AUTHORITIES reopened the Zamboanga International Airport yesterday after the Manila-bound Cebu Pacific plane that suffered flat tires was towed out of the runway.

The plane, which was carrying 96 passengers from Davao City, was touching down here to pick up more passengers for Manila when its two rear tires burst.

None of the passengers were hurt.

Duane Mandin, Cebu Pacific Zamboanga branch officer, said an investigation was needed because the tires were new.

The incident caused the cancellation of all incoming and outgoing flights here.

Vice Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco said a total of 1,249 passengers and 14 flights were cancelled.

Suit filed over Subic demolition

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ABOUT 70 FAMILIES on Wednesday filed illegal demolition and harassment complaints against the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the police following last week's clearing of a Zambales coastal village leased out by the SBMA as site for a shipyard.

Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II brought to Undersecretary Percival Chavez, chair of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, the copies of the complaints of settlers at Sitio Agusuhin in Barangay Cawag in Subic town.

Their houses were torn down from April 29 to May 1 in time for the groundbreaking rites of the Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co. (HHIC) on May 2.

In letter to the Inquirer, Lacbain said the settlers were protesting not to stop the shipyard project but to protect their homes.

"The affected residents are also supporting the Korean shipyard project and are fully aware of the benefits that will accrue to the country," said Lacbain in his letter.

"The affected residents are only demanding just compensation, acceptable relocation site and livelihood opportunities," he said.

In March, the South Korean firm signed a \$1-billion lease agreement with the SBMA for the construction of a shipyard at Agusuhin, a public land within the jurisdiction of the SBMA.

In their affidavits, the settlers claimed that SBMA forest rangers and members of the police's Special Action Forces pushed through with the demolition although negotiations were still ongoing and they have yet to receive payments for damages or get clear assurances for relocation and livelihood.

Lacbain said this violated President Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order No. 152 in relation to Republic Act 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992.

Lacbain said SBMA Deputy Administrator Ramon Agregado justified the rush by saying that the President was expected to visit the site and further delays needed to be avoided to stop the pullout of HHIC.

Edgardo Pamintuan, chief of the Sub-Clark Alliance Development (SCAD) Office, said Ms Arroyo was not scheduled to grace the rites. Contrary to local reports, Pamintuan said Ms Arroyo had not made the clearing of houses a requirement for her attendance.

Pamintuan confirmed that HHIC earlier planned to withdraw because on top of already spending P50 million for the "disturbance compensation," the delay in the demolition slowed down the timetable to meet deadlines to deliver orders for four ships.

Pamintuan defended the SBMA, saying the compensation packages it facilitated—ranging from P25,000 to P900,000—were big considering that the settlers built houses on public lands.

NABUNTURAN, COMPOSTELA Valley—Gov. Jose Caballero and three other officials here were being linked to the alleged overpriced medicines that the provincial government bought in 2004.

During an investigation conducted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on Wednesday, Brenda Bretana, a pharmacist at the Montevista District Hospital, said Gov. Jose Caballero, provincial administrator Anesio Ranario and Dr. Bulalio Dujall, Montevista District Hospital chief, authorized the purchase of 51 items of medicines from the San Marina Laboratory Inc. in Davao City, which were overpriced by "300 to 1,200 percent."

Joel Reterbo, provincial budget officer, was also named in the

alleged conspiracy.

Bretana cited as example the purchase of 250 milligrams paracetamol tablets, for which the provincial government paid P179.50 each. She said the prevailing unit cost was only P15 per tablet.

Board member Arturo Uy said in the purchase of 500 mg paracetamol tablets, the provincial government paid P506.50 per tablet when the medicine could be bought for P28.

"This is not only illegal and disadvantageous to the provincial government but highly immoral," Uy said.

But Caballero said he has nothing to do with the irregularity and said he even doubted if it happened.

"While it is true that I affixed my signature on the purchase order, it was purely a ministerial matter," he said.

Caballero said the effort to drag his name into the scandal was the work of his detractors.

He vowed to "file a libel case against anyone who would try to ruin my reputation."

Bretana said Dujall had previously scolded her when she confronted him about the overpricing.

She said Caballero also did the same.

"Why are you hostile to me?" Bretana quoted the governor as saying. Bert Pucate, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communications CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD OLMIA ROAD, PASAY CITY METRO MANILA	
IN RE APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF FOREIGN AIR CARRIER'S PERMIT (FACP) UNDER THE LIBERALIZED CHARTER PROGRAM HONGKONG EXPRESS AIRWAYS LIMITED, Applicant	<i>A Country of bringing the Philippines closer together through better transportation and communication</i> CAB CASE NO. 28084

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 778, as amended, notice is hereby given that HONGKONG EXPRESS AIRWAYS LIMITED has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) an application for the Issuance of Foreign Air Carrier's Permit under the Liberalized Charter Program. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on 17 May 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the applicant shall present its evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation and that copies of this notice and the application itself be served upon Philippine Airlines, Inc., Cebu Pacific Air, Philippine Corporation, Asian Spirit and CR Airlines, Ltd., either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this application on its merit.

Let a copy of this application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

21 April 2006
Pasay City, Philippines

[Signature]
MA. ELLEN S. MORDO
Hearing Officer

cc: ATTY. ANTHONY T. ZAMORA
Counsel for Applicant Hongkong Express Airways Ltd.
ZAMORA MIRAFLOR BRAVO & ASSOCIATES
Suite 707 Cityland 10 Tower I
Geronimo Street cor. Ayala Avenue North
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Date - April 26, May 5 & 12, 2006

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In addition to the list earlier published on 23 March 2006 involving cancelled and delisted agencies the following companies do not have valid licenses to recruit landbased and seabased workers for overseas employment:

DELISTED AGENCIES (Agencies that failed to comply with the conditions for the grant of its license)

1. A-M Phil. Professional Services Corp.
2. Big Circle International Manpower Management Agency
3. Emmer International Inc.
4. Jang International Promotions & Manpower Corporation
5. Mecprego International Inc.
6. Maritima de Manila MGM Systems Inc.
7. Princess Talent Center Production Inc.
8. Rising Sun Int'l. Human Resources Inc.
9. Starlink International Promotion Inc.
10. Studio 85 Promotions Inc.
11. Vitamin & Cebu Artists International Inc.

The public is encouraged to report to the POEA any recruitment activity conducted by the above-named entities.

HOTLINES : 722-1144 • 722-1155
E-MAIL : info@poea.gov.ph
Website : www.poea.gov.ph

Philippine Overseas Employment Agency

Republic of the Philippines Province of Negros Oriental CITY OF BAYAWAN SPECIALIZED BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE															
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID															
<p>The City Government of Bayawan, through its Specialized Bids and Awards Committee, invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following project:</p>															
BID Number 06-041B	Name of Project/s Labor & materials for various fabrication and installation for the Construction of Integrated Bus Terminal	Approved Budget for the Contract P16,293,297.27	Source of Fund General Fund												
<p>Project Location/Delivery Area Bayawan City Warehouse Contract Duration 12 working days upon receipt of Purchase Order</p>															
<p>The complete schedules of bidding activities are as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">ACTIVITY</th> <th style="text-align: center;">DATES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Advertisement/Publishing of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid</td> <td style="text-align: center;">May 5, 2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Issuance of Bid Documents</td> <td style="text-align: center;">May 8, 2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pre-bid Conference</td> <td style="text-align: center;">May 12, 2006 (10:00 p.m.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deadline for the submission & Opening of Eligibility Requirements (for Non-Accredited Suppliers) & LOI for Accredited Suppliers (Specialized BAC Office)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">May 26, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deadline/Opening of Bids (Specialized BAC Office)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">May 28, 2006 (10:00 a.m.)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents will be available for issuance at the Specialized BAC Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall Bldg., Bayawan City (Tel. (035) 521-0800) upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee.</p> <p>Prospective Bidders shall duly accomplish eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals and submit the same in 2 (two) separate sealed envelopes on or before the date indicated above.</p> <p>The Specialized Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all bids or part thereof, to waive formality thereof or to accept such bids considered most advantageous to the City Government of Bayawan.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Sgd.) Atty. VICTORIANO D. ALABASTRO Chairman, Specialized Bids & Awards Committee</p>				ACTIVITY	DATES	Advertisement/Publishing of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid	May 5, 2006	Issuance of Bid Documents	May 8, 2006	Pre-bid Conference	May 12, 2006 (10:00 p.m.)	Deadline for the submission & Opening of Eligibility Requirements (for Non-Accredited Suppliers) & LOI for Accredited Suppliers (Specialized BAC Office)	May 26, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)	Deadline/Opening of Bids (Specialized BAC Office)	May 28, 2006 (10:00 a.m.)
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Republic of the Philippines Province of Siquijor Municipality of Cantilan BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE											
May 3, 2006											
INVITATION TO RE-BID											
<p>The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education, has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of P1,743 Million under Loan Agreement #JPH-P200, towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDP) dated December 28, 1998. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the new construction of school buildings. In view hereof, the Government of the Philippines through the DepEd-SEDP with the participation of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of the Municipality of Cantilan as implementor, hereinafter called the Agency, wishes to receive bids for the new construction of the following listed school buildings at Cantilan National High School located at Barangay Megatang, Cantilan, Siquijor</p>											
<p>1) Two Storey Four Classroom Building with Science Laboratory, Faculty Room and Toilets 2) Two Storey Four Classroom Building with Library, Guidance Room and Toilets 3) Two Storey Six Classroom Building</p>											
<p>Disbursement of the ODA loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans" No. Party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the Agency will take appropriate measures for finance. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as DepEd-SEDP under contract funded with JBIC ODA loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC</p>											
<p>1) Will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices as compelling for the contract in question;</p>											
<p>2) Will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing, another contract financed by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA.</p>											
<p>Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (CAB) - registered contractors or joint venture contractor, with PCAB license at least Medium A classification on Building. Prospective Bidders/Contractors shall meet the minimum qualifying criteria of three (3) years construction experience. The schedule of activities for the above listed projects is indicated below:</p>											
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Submission of Letter of Intent</td> <td style="width: 30%;">May 18, 2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Issuance of Bid Documents</td> <td style="text-align: center;">May 18, 2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pre-bid Conference</td> <td style="text-align: center;">May 19, 2006 (2:00 PM)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Re-Bid Opening</td> <td style="text-align: center;">May 30, 2006 (2:00 PM)</td> </tr> </thead> </table> <p>All particulars relative to eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, award of Contract and enforcement hereof shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A of RA 9184) otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.</p> <p>The CAB reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility, or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract if, among others, there is evidence of collusion, including any act which restrains, suppresses or defeats competition, were any required formally thereto, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.</p> <p>The CAB also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder(s) for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of its bids, or any obligation to inform the affected bidder(s) on the ground(s) of CAB action, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.</p> <p>All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Sgd.) VICENTE A. MIRANDA Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Cantilan, Siquijor</p>				Submission of Letter of Intent	May 18, 2006	Issuance of Bid Documents	May 18, 2006	Pre-bid Conference	May 19, 2006 (2:00 PM)	Re-Bid Opening	May 30, 2006 (2:00 PM)
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Re-Bid Opening	May 30, 2006 (2:00 PM)										

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Davao City Water District, with the Approved Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum (see schedule under 2) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under contracts as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Davao City Water District now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following:

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract	BID SECURITY (% OF ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
1	15,600 PCS - 1/2" WATER METERS	\$19,580,000.00	195,000.00	5,000.00
2	1 UNIT AIR COMPRESSOR with 1 UNIT PAYMENT BREAKER	900,000.00	9,000.00	1,000.00
3	12 UNITS STAINLESS STEEL WATER STORAGE TANK	\$33,997.80	5,340.00	1,000.00
4	12 UNITS VARIOUS SIZES OF BUTTERFLY VALVE	636,900.00	6,369.00	1,000.00
5	3 UNITS VIBRATORY RAMMER	391,000.00	3,910.00	1,000.00
6	5 UNITS CONDUCTIVITY / TDS/ SALINITY METER	400,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00
7	4 UNITS ELECTRIC ACTUATORS	440,000.00	4,400.00	1,000.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietors, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to

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- The dealer submits customer information to Samsung Electronics for verification.
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- Samsung Electronics verifies your trade up information and pulls your old unit out.

MODEL	SRP	CRT TV 29" and up Trade Up Value	PJTV/ PDP/ LCD Trade Up Value	FREE Samsung Phone
LA26R7	Php 99,900	Php 10,000	Php 15,000	X670
LA32R7	Php 119,900	Php 12,000	Php 18,000	X670
LA40R7	Php 209,900	Php 22,000	Php 32,000	D820
LA46M51	Php 279,900	Php 28,000	Php 42,000	D820

If you do not have an old TV to trade in, you may purchase any of the qualified Samsung LCD TV models and get a free Samsung handheld phone to be delivered by Samsung via courier.



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SAMSUNG

Gov't parcelling out 1,000 ha to Luisita farmers

From page A1

President's resignation.

This time, he said, the decision to deny the HLI appeal was made after Aquino announced her participation in STOP Cha-cha, the multisectoral campaign to thwart Malacañang-backed efforts to amend the Constitution.

"I want to believe that there's nothing political about this, but every time Cory (Aquino) does something, something happens to Luisita," Mendoza said.

4,000 farmers

At least 4,000 farmer-beneficiaries at Hacienda Luisita have been identified, but only the first batch will receive certificates of land ownership next month.

The area to be distributed comprises the first of four titles covering the entire estate.

The distribution is to be the highlight of the 18th anniversary of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in June.

"For the first time in us ... colorful history, the program earns the kind of respect it rightly deserves, and it comes ... when the most contentious issue at hand—Hacienda Luisita—is finally resolved in favor of the Filipino people," Pangandaman said.

Hacienda Luisita is the second biggest landholding to be covered by CARB. (The biggest was the 10,000-hectare Yulo estate in Canlubang, Laguna.)

'Disturbing'

But Mendoza said it was "disturbing" that the DAR was making announcements in the media about the distribution of a portion of the estate when it had



WORKERS harvest sugarcane at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

IN THE KNOW

HACIENDA LUISITA is a 6,000-hectare contiguous property in Tarlac covering Tarlac City and the towns of Concepcion and La Paz.

Its size is about the same as the combined areas of the cities of Makati (2,986 hectares) and Pasig (3,100 hectares).

Of the 6,000 hectares, 4,915 were classified in 1988 as agricultural land, representing the area covered by the stock distribution option.

The first 1,000 hectares to be distributed are equivalent to about 19 Luneta Parks (Luneta covers 52.8 hectares) or slightly smaller than the municipality of San Juan (1,072 hectares) in Metro Manila.

Hacienda Luisita was originally part of the landholdings of the Compania General Tabacos de Filipinas, or Tabacalera.

The estate was named after Luisa, the wife of Don Antonio Lopez, who headed Tabacalera when it acquired Luisita in 1882.

The Huk rebellion in 1956 led the Spanish owners of Tabacalera to sell the Central Azucarera de Tarlac and Luisita.

In 1958, the Cojuangcos acquired the sugar mill and the estate through a loan from the Government Service Insurance System and a dollar loan from the Manufacturer's Trust of New York, which was guaranteed by the Central Bank of the Philippines.

The property is now owned and managed by Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) which was incorporated on Aug. 23, 1988.

A year earlier, President Corazon Aquino issued Presidential Proclamation 131 and Executive Order 22, which spelled out her Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Tarlac Development Corp., a subsidiary of Jose Cojuangco and Sons Inc., the holding company of the Cojuangco family, owns 70 percent of HLI.

The remaining 30 percent is owned by beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law. *PDI Research*

yet to finish the staff work.

He said such announcements would generate confusion and agitation among those who had not been chosen as beneficiaries.

"[Has the DAR] informed the parties that their rights to the converted lands, like the industrial park, will be subverted? I hope that if the DAR does this, we will not be haunted by [its] actions later on," he said.

Mendoza said the HLI was only after two things—following the rule of law

and ensuring that the distribution would be done in a proper and transparent manner.

According to the PARC, the decision to revoke the 16-year-old stock distribution option at Hacienda Luisita was made because the lives of the farmers had not improved, and because the estate management had violated certain provisions, including fragmenting the original land area and failing to give the farmer-stockholders their share of the earnings.

US Senate urges GMA to resolve media murders

From page A1

established by the UN General Assembly and is observed annually on May 3. This year's theme is "Media and Good Governance."

"Democracy depends on the free flow of information to the public, which depends on a press free to do its work without government intimidation," said Lugar, a frequent Manila visitor since the martial law days of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The Philippines is 'ranked' by the Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders) as the second-most dangerous country for journalists after Iraq.

Figures compiled by the INQUIRER showed that since the dismantling in 1986 of the Marcos dictatorship, 99 journalists had been killed in the Philippines, including 42 over the past five years.

Albert del Rosario, the Philippine ambassador to Washington, told the Senate committee that of the 33 cases that came to the panel's attention, Manila was able to account, at least initially, for 31 cases recorded in the 2000-2005 period.

15 killings under trial

Of those 31, he said, 15 killings had been investigated, resulting in the filing of cases which are currently undergoing trial.

Fourteen are still being investigated while two cases were dismissed due to non-appearance of witnesses and for failure of the prosecution to present strong evidence, Del Rosario said.

Lugar requested a written update on the status of the unresolved cases in August and urged Del Rosario to advise the Senate committee as soon as any convictions were recorded in the trials currently under way.

In Manila, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that Ms Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia had set up a special fund to pay for tips that would lead to identifying those behind the attacks on journalists.

"All the authorities, particularly the PNP (Philippine National Police), are doing everything necessary to address these different cases of attacks on our journalists," said Bunye.

The latest attack took place on Tuesday night in Mandaluyong City when gunmen shot and killed Nicolas Cervantes, 66, a Suri-gao-based freelance journalist who was also reported to be a "confidential agent" of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The motive for the killing was still unknown.

RP must listen to US

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said that Ms Arroyo must listen to the US Senate.

"Actually, this is already a warning. The government has always considered the US as a big brother. Now, the big brother is telling the younger brother to shape up," said Jose Torres, NUJP spokesperson.

Verge Santos of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility said local groups had been trying to bring to the government's attention the rash of violence against journalists to no avail.

"Any pressure that is put to bear on the Philippine government is welcome news. And the government must heed this (US Senate's) call. But the government does not seem impressed. We have heard nothing from the government on this. I would imagine increased pressure would necessarily soften it," Santos said.

Gestures of support

Governments and organizations around

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Sen. Richard Lugar at the US Capitol on May 20, 2003. *FILEPHOTO*

the world made gestures of support for journalists on World Press Freedom Day. Dozens of leaders came under fierce criticism for infringing on free expression.

Reporters Sans Frontières in Paris displayed a rogues' gallery of photographs of 37 world leaders accused of abusing journalists' rights.

RSF secretary general Robert Menard denounced "acts of violence, imprisonments, assassinations" of journalists, saying 2005 saw the most killings of journalists in any year since 1995.

Iraq had the highest media death toll, he added, with 90 journalists killed there since the start of the war three years ago.

Predators of press freedom

Among the leaders identified by RSF as "predators" of press freedom were King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, and Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Hu Jintao of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Swedish organizations called for the release of Dawit Isaac, a Swedish-Eritrean journalist held in Eritrea since 2001 on charges of being a traitor and spy for Ethiopia.

A statement by 12 Turkish press organizations urged the abolition of draft amendments to an antiterror law that critics say could land journalists in jail if they are convicted of publishing material perceived as terrorist propaganda.

Dozens of journalists marched in the Zimbabwean capital demanding that the government repeal its tough media laws under which several newspapers have been shut down and foreign reporters expelled from the country.

Journalists in Danger

The group Journalists in Danger in the Democratic Republic of Congo denounced an increase in violations of press freedoms ahead of planned elections this summer, including

the killing of some journalists and the beating of others by security forces.

The government of the neighboring state of Congo announced it would release \$96,000 in funding to train state and private sector journalists. Communications Minister Alain Atouala cited a "problem of quality" in journalism in the country.

Cartoons

Malaysian rights groups alleged serious violations, noting in a petition that three newspapers had been suspended for their coverage of the controversial Danish cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed.

In contrast, Yemen made a goodwill gesture, lifting a suspension of operations of three newspapers which had been imposed in February when they published the Prophet cartoons, the Yemen Observer reported.

Greece's culture minister, Georges Vougalakis, also sought to mend fences over the Mohammed cartoons dispute by launching an international competition of caricatures to overcome differences between various cul-

ture

An international panel of cartoon journal-

ists will evaluate the entries, and the winning works will be displayed in October, marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the minister said.

Basque separatists

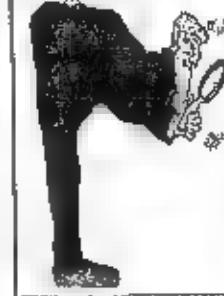
In another more positive development, RSF removed the Basque armed separatist group ETA from its list of "predators" due to a ceasefire announced by the group in March.

But it added five new names to its list comprising government and rebel leaders, including Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Tamil armed rebel groups in Sri Lanka and Colombian rebel leaders.

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika announced amnesty for journalists jailed for insulting public officials, offending the president and defamation.

However, staunch government critic Mohamed Bouchikou, head of the newspaper *Le Matin*, will remain in jail where he is serving a two-year sentence for breaking exchange control legislation after treasury bonds were found in his luggage at Algiers airport. *APP* with a report from Alcun Papa

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petition /A22

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with back-to-
school security
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WALLY SANTANA

BOC raids alleged smuggled goods den

Warehouses in Tondo compound supplied imported items to malls

By Leila B. Salaverria

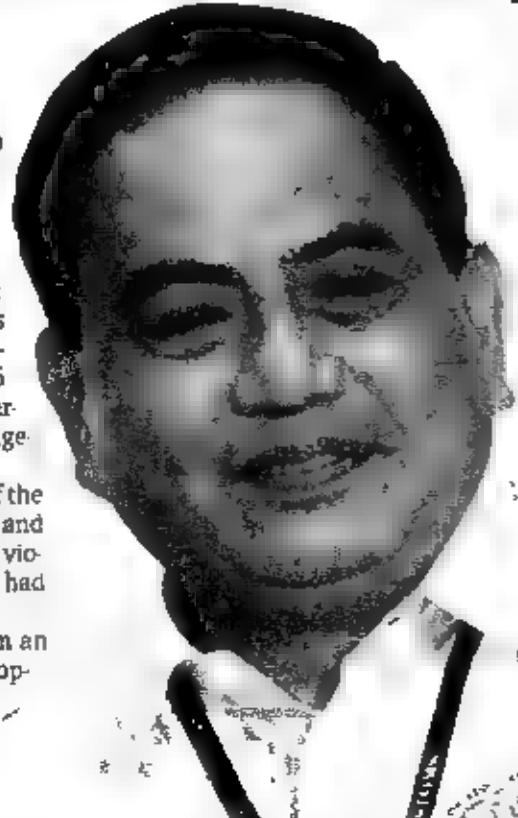
THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS RAIDED yesterday a compound in Tondo, Manila, that allegedly supplied smuggled or fake items sold in malls.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said yesterday the bureau's agents had begun checking the import documents of items stored in 26 warehouses inside a compound operated by the RAN Properties Management Corp. (RAN PMC).

The bureau will try to determine if the goods had been properly assessed and charged the correct duties, or if any violation of intellectual property rights had been committed.

"We conducted the raid based on an allegation that the intellectual property code had been violated and goods were grossly undervalued or not classified properly," Morales told reporters.

If undervalued or untaxed goods were found, to the source

CUSTOMS Commissioner Napoleon Morales: Straight
FROM FILE PHOTO

the BOC would require the owners to pay the correct amount of duties, he added.

The raid was conducted by the BOC together with the Task Force on Anti Smuggling and the Intellectual Property Office. Operatives of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Special Action Force were also involved.

Morales said that by raiding the warehouse instead of the malls carrying the questionable items, "we are now going straight to the source."

He added the bureau expected to collect millions of pesos in fines and penalties as a result of the move.

Malls supplier

Based on the intelligence work of the BOC and the police, the RAN PMC compound on Antonio Rivera Street in Tondo was found to have supplied goods to malls in Baclaran, Paranaque, Tutuban, and Divisoria, including the popular shopping destination, the 168 Shopping Mall in Binondo.

In March, the BOC raided the mall and seized untaxed imported goods and fake

items. The operation, involving 500 customs agents, suspended sales operations in the mall for more than a month as agents inventoried and assessed the seized items.

Among the first finds of the BOC found in one of the warehouses at the RAN PMC compound yesterday, Morales said, were undervalued electronic equipment.

He pointed out that the video cassette disc (VCD) players found at the warehouse occupied by Ahhoo Enterprises, run by a certain Holden Ko, were listed in import documents as costing only US\$0.90 or around P50 based on the current foreign exchange rate.

"This is grossly undervalued. The value is less than the price of raw materials," Morales said.

The undervaluation of imported goods means less taxes and duties are collected by the BOC, depriving the government of much needed revenues. Since smuggled or undervalued goods are sold at a lower price, they also compete unfairly with locally manufactured items.

Morales said the BOC would penalize

its employees responsible for the release of the undervalued or misdeclared items in the warehouses.

He said the import documents would show the port of entry of the items and the names of the customs examiner and appraiser who processed the documents.

Meanwhile, RAN PMC operations manager Bobby Ting said the corporation only rented out the warehouses. He said the corporation prohibited the storage of explosives and illegal drugs, and expected tenants to store imported items properly in the warehouses.

Strictly legal

"If it is proven they had something illegal in the warehouses, we have to kick them out," Ting said.

The other warehouses the BOC inspected yesterday contained imported mongo beans, creamed corn, rice flour and gelatin. It was not determined if the right amount of taxes were paid on the items.

Tenant Susan Tan, who stored household items in her rented warehouse, assured the bureau of her cooperation, saying all her papers were in order.

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3 fires break out in Metro Manila's long, hot summer



RESIDENTS of Coral St., Tondo, in Manila rush out of their burning homes with their belongings after a fire broke out in the area yesterday morning.

By Jocelyn R. Uy, Margaux C. Ortiz and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THREE FIRES BROKE OUT IN SEPARATE AREAS in the metropolis yesterday.

In a crowded Parañaque City community, a fire gobbled up at least P15 million worth of property before noon, fire officials said.

Pining Guadarama told fire investigators that she saw smoke coming from the second floor of a bakery on De Leon Street, Quirino Avenue in Barangay Tambo at 11:38 a.m.

According to District 3 Fire Marshal Supt. Sofia Mendoza, the second floor of the establishment was occupied by boarders. But they have yet to find out whether or not the room was empty when the blaze broke out.

The blaze spread to neighboring commercial establishments including several variety stores and a hardware shop. Mendoza, who said they have yet to establish the cause of the fire, estimated that at least 70 houses were destroyed in the incident.

Casualties

Roger Santiago, 18, sustained wounds in the legs when a metal scrap hit him during the fire. Mendoza said there were also reports that an old woman, identified only as Elvira, was brought to the hospital after she suffered a heart attack at the height of the fire.

Illegal electrical connections, on the other hand, may have caused the fire that razed a residential area in Tondo, Manila, yesterday.

according to arson investigators.

SPO1 Rodelio Nelvin of the Manila Fire Department (MFD) said the fire, which started on the roof of a house on Coral Street, Juan Luna, began at 10:23 a.m., displacing around 300 families. The fire was put out at 12:35 p.m., the arson investigator said. No one was reported injured during the incident.

Top of list

SPO2 Gaudencio Magallanes of the MFD earlier disclosed that electrical wiring topped the list of fire hazards in the city. He said that in highly populated areas like Tondo and Sampaloc, illegal electrical connections often resulted in fires.

Meanwhile, more than 20 shanties were razed when a fire broke out inside a crowded relocation area in Tumana, Barangay Concepcion Uno, Marikina City, yesterday afternoon.

City Fire Marshal Chief Insp. Antonio Razal told the INQUIRER that at least 43 families were left homeless as a result of the incident. He estimated the damages at P5 million.

Razal said they received information that the house where the fire began could have been using an illegal connection.

Three persons sustained wounds after they were hit with iron sheets during the commotion, Razal added. The fire victims were later brought to temporary quarters at the Marikina Heights Elementary School.

METROBRIEFS

No bail for couple

A VALENZUELA Regional Trial Court judge did not recommend bail for a couple accused of large scale estafa who allegedly victimized at least 200 persons. Jose Luis and Lora Marie Catap were arrested in San

Mateo Rita, province on Tuesday by virtue of a warrant issued by RTC Branch 171. Judge Maria Nezna Santos. The suspects were also charged with illegal recruitment in that investigation.

Showing that the couple allegedly collected money from the complainants ranging from P25,000 to P50,000 who were promised jobs in an electronic company based in Japan.

—Nancy C. Garvajal

Red letter day

for Arellano High

MEMBERS of the ARELLANO HIGH SCHOOL, BATCH 1966 are invited to attend their fortieth (Ruby) anniversary reunion on Saturday, at Balamban Function Room, Kura-Vae Eterna Center 1971, Leon Guinto St., Makati, Manila. For inquiries, please call Florian Paguita Tan at 6623919 and 0916-9008207; Bert Cruz at 9613488 and 0920-5090073 or Jay de Belen at 8902029 or 8976164 or 0927-322975. Ruben Clemente of the Office of the Vice-Mayor of Las Piñas is head of the Arellano Class '66 Reunion Organizing Committee.

'Pasinaya' in Makati

THE MONTH LONG celebration of the 336th Foundation Day of Makati will kick off with Barangay Bel-Air and the Bel-Air Village Association's (BAVA) Annual Pasinaya Festival on May 6-7. Barangay Bel-Air Captain Constance Ichadico said this year's Pasinaya will carry the theme "Panahon Natin, Ritmo Natin." The celebration will start with a parade of bands around the village and the ribbon cutting and blessing of the Pasinaya venue. Pasinaya 2006 will also include a bazaar, a food festival, a band exhibition, and children's fashion show, among others.

QC court asked to dismiss STL franchise holder's petition

Belmonte strikes back, cites lack of permit

By DJ Yap

THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday sought the dismissal of a petition for injunction and temporary restraining order filed by a Small Town Lottery (STL) franchisee who was not allowed to operate in the city.

The 14-page motion was submitted by Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., business permits chief Pacífico Maghacot Jr., and police district director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr.

Petitioner Benchmark Acquisition International Corp. earlier asked a Quezon City court to stop the respon-

dents from blocking the operations of STL in the city. It argued that the officials lacked jurisdiction, since the company was an authorized agent of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

But Belmonte, Maghacot and Radovan said the petition lacked merit and the franchisee had failed to comply with the requirements.

No true copy

Among other things, the respondents said the petition did not include a certified true copy of the "judgment, order or resolution" being questioned.

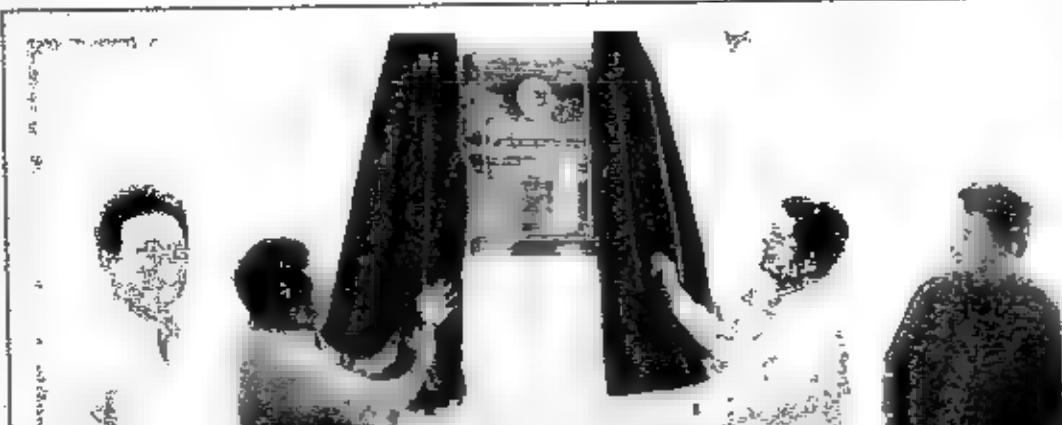
Belmonte had issued a cease-and-desist order against the STL, saying Benchmark did not have a permit from his office. Benchmark sought an injunction against the order.

The respondents said the injunction would, in effect, allow the company to operate a business in Quezon City without "any form of permit or regulation" from the city government.

Judge Bernelito Fernandez of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 97 indicated he would resolve the petition for temporary restraining order first before hearing the request for injunction.



QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr.



JUSTICE HALL INAUGURATION

Taguig City marked its 419th founding anniversary with the inauguration of a new Justice Hall. At the opening were Supreme Court Justice Presbitero Velasco, Vice Mayor George A. Elias, Justice Dante O. Tiaga and Executive Judge Edwin Villasor.

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MPD, EPD cops beef up back to school safety plans

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AFTER FOCUSING THEIR ENERGIES and manpower on the Labor Day rallies, policemen have now turned their attention to security measures with schools set to open in June.

Supt. Rolando Miranda, chief of the Manila Police District (MPD) Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU), said the police would be setting up assistance centers in different university areas in the city to provide help to returning students in the next few weeks.

Assistance centers

The assistance centers will be stationed in the University Belt, Mendiola Consortium and Taft Avenue, Miranda said.

"We have given instructions to the station commanders regarding the influx of students during the enrollment period," Miranda told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Thousands of college freshmen and sophomore students are expected to begin enrolling next week, the MPD official said.

Miranda said the station commanders have coordinated with campus officials regarding the implementation of security measures in their respective schools.

University belt

The police official said MPD Stations 3 and 4 would be in charge of the University Belt Area while Station 8 would ensure peace and order in the Mendiola Consortium.

Miranda added that MPD Stations 5 and 9 were instructed to implement security measures in the Taft Avenue area where De La Salle University, College of St. Benilde and University of the Philippines Manila are located.

Police officials are also preparing to intensify security measures inside the busy Ortigas Business District, anticipating the mall rush that comes with

the opening of classes next month.

"We have been talking about the deployment of Special Weapons and Tactics operatives, bank patrols and members of the police mobile force," Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino told the INQUIRER.

Business district

The other afternoon, he met with officials in charge of security measures in and around buildings at the business district, the site of at least five big malls, hotels, restaurant strips and call center offices.

The security officials were particularly focused on curbing robbery and theft cases in the area, especially around the malls.

Records from the Eastern Police District showed at least 54 of the 71 crime incidents reported in the area from January to April this year were robbery and theft incidents.

Crime watch

"We want to preempt whatever criminals could be planning especially because the opening of classes is near," Alejandrino said.

Barangay officials are also planning to buy more two-way radios for their watchmen while police are evaluating their fixed visibility patrols.

Alejandrino advised mall goers and employees to always be on alert, especially those working on the night shift.

"They should be always on alert. They should avoid walking alone especially in dimly lit areas," Alejandrino said.

Danger spots

In the same report, police also listed Emerald Avenue, SM Megamall, Pearl Drive, San Miguel Avenue, Shaw Boulevard and Shangri-La Mall as among the crime-prone areas inside the business district.

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

150 types of bird flu pose threat

SINGAPORE—WHILE THE WORLD FOCUSES on battling the spread of the deadly bird flu, nearly 150 different strains of the virus with the potential to cause a global pandemic were laying in wait, scientists warned on Wednesday.

"It is dangerous just to focus on H5N1," Hiroshi Kida, of Japan's Hokkaido University, said on the sidelines of a bird flu conference in Singapore organized by the Lancet medical journal.

Kida said H5N1 virus—responsible for 113 deaths around the world—was one of at least 144 potential different strains which posed a threat to humans.

The different strains were possible because of combinations of proteins within the virus.

All the strains were present in ducks, which act as carriers often without showing any flu symptoms, he said.

"None of the ... subtypes can be ruled out as potential candidates for future pandemics," Kida told the conference.

Bird flu viruses are a threat to humans because we have no natural immunity to most of them and because they can jump directly from birds to people—just as one strain did in 1918, triggering a pandemic in which an estimated 50 million died.

In 2003, an outbreak of highly pathogenic H7N7 bird flu infected 89 people in Holland and killed one. Bird flu strains H9N2, H7N2 and H7N3 have also infected people.

But it is fast-spreading H5N1 that has scientists most worried at the moment. It is known to have killed at least 113 of the 205 people it has infected and killed or led to the culling of about 200 million chickens.

Virologist Mark Peiris told the conference the assumption that H5N1 will wear itself out if it triggers a pandemic might be wrong.

"If this virus becomes a pandemic, will it attenuate its virulence in humans? I think that would be a rather optimistic assumption to make," said Peiris of the University of Hong Kong.

During past pandemics, flu viruses quickly evolved to effectively wear themselves out and kill only a small percentage of people. Reuters



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The WORLD

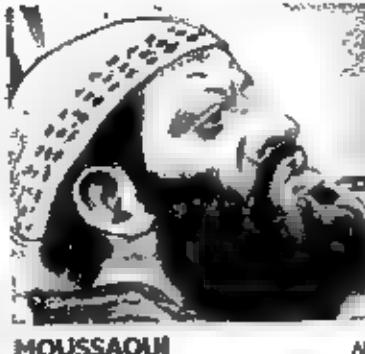
Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Moussaoui gets life; taunts: 'US, you lost'

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA—ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI claimed victory over America after a jury rejected the government's effort to put the Sept. 11 conspirator to death and instead decided to lock him away in prison for the rest of his life.

Moussaoui, who spent much of the two-month trial cursing America, blessing al-Qaida and mocking the suffering of 9/11 victims, offered one more taunt after the jury reached its verdict: "America, you lost—I won," he said, clapping his hands as he was escorted from the courtroom.

Moussaoui will get one last chance to speak publicly Thursday when he will formally be sentenced to life in prison. Barring an unforeseen circumstance, he will then be sent to a federal supermax prison in Colorado for the rest of his life under special conditions that will prevent him from having



MOUSSAOUI

any contact with the outside world.

After seven days of deliberation,

the nine men and three women rebuffed the government's appeal for death for the only person charged in this country in the suicide hijackings that killed nearly 3,000 people on Sept. 11, 2001.

It is not known how many jurors wanted Moussaoui sentenced to life and how many wanted a death sentence. Under federal law, a defendant automatically receives life in prison when a jury is split. The 42-page verdict form gives no indication on how or if the jury split.

Interestingly, the jury rejected two key defense arguments—that

Moussaoui suffers a mental illness and that executing him would make him a martyr. No jurors indicated on the verdict form that they gave any weight to those arguments.

Nine jurors found that Moussaoui suffered a difficult childhood in a dysfunctional family where he spent many of his early years in and out of orphanages. Three found that Moussaoui only played a minor role in 9/11.

Prosecutors, who pursued the Moussaoui case for 4 1/2 years, declared themselves satisfied with

the jury's verdict.

Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty, who was chief prosecutor in Alexandria in December 2001 when Moussaoui was first charged, noted that the jury in the trial's first phase found Moussaoui responsible for the 9/11 attacks by concealing the al-Qaida plot from federal agents after Moussaoui was arrested in August 2001 on immigration violations.

"It only takes one juror to reject imposition of the death penalty, and we respect that," McNulty said.

AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Search for air crash victims

SOCHI, Russia—Rescue workers stepped up their search on Thursday morning for bodies, wreckage and black boxes from an Armenian plane that crashed into the Black Sea off the Russian coast. Russian rescue teams, which had searched throughout the night at the crash site near the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, began plumbing the depths with specialist equipment, including sonars, that arrived the previous evening from Moscow. All 113 passengers and crew on the flight from the Armenian capital, Yerevan, are thought to have died when the Airbus A320 plunged into the sea as it tried to land at Sochi in bad weather. By Thursday morning 53 bodies had been fished out of the water and 20 had been identified. (TASS said)

AP

Serbia punished over Mladic

BELGRADE—Serbia admitted Wednesday its inability to capture war crimes fugitive Ratko Mladic, frustrating the European Union and exposing Belgrade's tortured ties with UN prosecutors bidding to try him for genocide. A month after Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica promised to comply with a decade-long demand by the international community to catch Mladic, the European Union suspended talks on closer ties with Belgrade. Suspension of the talks, a precursor to eventual membership negotiations, effectively punishes Belgrade for failing to live up to those promises by the April 30 deadline. Instead of arresting Mladic—who is wanted for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity—Kostunica could only urge the former Bosnian Serb military commander to surrender.



MLADIC

AP

No soft drinks in US schools

THE COUNTRY'S top three soft-drink companies announced Wednesday that beginning this fall they would start removing sweetened drinks like Coke, Pepsi and lead cans from school cafeterias and vending machines in response to the growing threat of obesity and state legislation. Under an agreement between beverage makers and health advocates, students in elementary school would be served only bottled water, low-fat and nonfat milk, and 100 percent fruit juice in servings no bigger than 8 ounces. But the agreement—which includes parochial and private school contracts—is voluntary, and the beverage industry says its school sales would not be affected because it expects to replace sugary drinks with other ones.

NYT

World's oldest at 128 years

SAN AGUSTIN, El Salvador—Friends and relatives of Cruz Hernandez gathered on Wednesday to celebrate her 128th birthday, a milestone that might make her the world's oldest person. Hernandez, who relatives say spends most of her time dozing and no longer speaks, was surrounded by some 200 people at her party, some bearing a cake and others dressed as Salvadoran mythological heroes. According to national records, Hernandez was born on May 3, 1878, in one of the country's central provinces, where she gave birth to 13 children. She now has 80 grandchildren, 80 great-grandchildren and 25 great-great grandchildren. National birth registry officials sent Hernandez's documents to the Guinness World Records organization last year but have yet to hear whether the case was accepted. Guinness claims Ecuadorian Maria Esther de Capovilla is the world's oldest living woman at age 118. According to the organization, the longest any woman has ever lived is 122 years. The oldest man was 120 when he died in 1985.



HERNANDEZ

REUTERS

Picasso fetches \$95.2M

NEW YORK—Picasso's painting "Dora Maar with cat" sold for \$95.2 million at a New York auction on Wednesday, close to the world record for a piece by the Spanish artist, the Sotheby's auction house said. The 1941 portrait of Maar, a photographer who became Picasso's lover, is so precious that Sotheby's did not print a price estimate for the work. In its auction catalogue Picasso's 1905 masterpiece "Boy with a Pipe" remains the most expensive painting ever sold since it went under the hammer at a New York auction for \$104.2 million in May 2004.

AP

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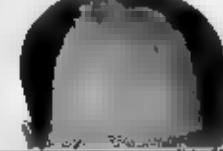
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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Deadlock at the diamond /A26
- LeBron casts spell on Wizards in OT /A27



- Tiger loses 'best friend, role model' /A27
- Bata, 3 others open RP bid /A28

Sparks trip Painters; Harbour Centre wins

GAMES TUESDAY (San Andres Gym, Makati)

2 p.m.—Magnolia Ice Cream vs TeleTech

4 p.m.—Montana Pawnshop vs Granny Gouts

THE KILLER SHOTS CAME from unexpected sources for Toyota Otis yesterday.

Emerson Oreta and JV Casio knocked in a triple each down the stretch as the Sparks bested Rain or Shine, 67-61, in the 2006 PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez Sports Center in Paranaque.

With the Sparks protecting a slim 59-54 lead, Oreta, hardly a factor in the team's previous wins, rose to the occasion by burying a triple that gave them a 62-54 advantage.

Rain or Shine's Gilbert Malabanan countered with a tough layup but it went for naught as Ca-

sio drained another triple that took the sting out of the Elasto Painters, 65-56, only 1:16 left.

Earlier, Harbour Centre leaned on Chico Lanete to nip Hapee-PCU, 69-64, and post its third straight win.

Lanete, last week's co-Player of the Week, scored 10 points in the second quarter and then added six points from rainbow territory in the payoff period to strengthen Harbour Centre's bid for a twice-to-beat bonus in the quarterfinals.

Their fifth win enabled Harbour Centre to climb to 5-6, while the Shockmasters absorbed their fifth straight loss and dropped to 3-8.

"We surprised them with our zone defense," said Toyota Otis coach Louie Alas. "I'm happy, too, with the performance of Emerson."

With their 8-3 record, the Sparks must win three of their remaining four games to clinch an

outright semis berth. The Painters fell to 7-4.

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 69—Lanete 16, Gaco 13, Tenorio 9, Arana 8, Mairholer 6, Reyes 6, Alorza 4, Cooching 2, Chia 2, Gomboa 2, Sagundel 1.

HAPEE-PCU 64—Castro 17, Moreno 12, Gonzales 11, Espinosa 10, Belga 5, Sanz 5, Solis 2, Nallon 2, Bucio 0, Razon 0, Canales 0, Gutierrez 0, Bacall 0.

Charts: 16-18, 35-27, 53-43, 69-64

Second Game

TOYOTA OTIS 67—Divance 21, Aban 15, Oreta 12, Casio 5, Andaya 4, Das 4, Cabatug 2, Alcaraz 2, Battista 2, Fajardo 0, Alvarado 0, Coronel 0, Baluyot 0, Rodriguez 0.

RAIN OR SHINE 61—Malabanan 17, Tanglay 11, Orligueno 11, Cabatu 5, Tan 5, Ericle 5, Sta. Maria 4, Reyes 2, Eman 1, Orbeta 0, Sagad 0, Ura 0.

Quarters: 16-16, 23-30, 53-43, 67-61

JOE Devance of Toyota Otis (right) during power play fishes a foul off Samiguel Eman of Rain or Shine in yesterday's game.

ERICK M. AZCAGA

Beermen, Giants tangle today

A WIN STREAK ENDS AND ANOTHER STRETCHES.

That will be the scenario when league-leader San Miguel Beermen tangles with Purefoods today in the Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup at the Ynares Center.

Toking a 9-2 record, highlighted by a seven-game winning run, San Miguel is favored to prevail against its sister team in the 4:40 match.

However, Purefoods is a formidable foe as it holds second spot at 8-3

thanks to a three-game roll.

A win by the Chunkee Giants would forge a two-way tie for the top spot, making it harder for the other teams to catch up in the chase for the two outright semifinal seats.

It would also give Purefoods the morale boost as it was dumped by San Miguel, 93-77, in their first meeting last month.

Red Bull is looking for its third straight victory in its 7:35 p.m. match against fading Air21.

Red Bull is looking for its third straight victory in its 7:35 p.m. match against fading Air21.

With a 5-6 record it shares with idle Talk 'N Text and Alaska, the Bulls are bent on securing an outright quarterfinals berth reserved for the No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5 teams after the eliminations.

The Express, who bowed to the Bulls, 112-98, last March 29, have a second-worse 4-7 record.

The four teams with the worst record will go through a wild-card phase where they play a single round to decide the one squad that will join the quarterfinalists. Mart Anthony Reyes

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San Miguel	9	2
Purefoods	8	3
Coca-Cola	8	5
Talk 'N Text	5	6
Red Bull	5	6
Alaska	5	8
Ginebra	4	8
Air21	4	7
Sta. Lucia	3	8

GAMES TODAY
(Ynares Center)

4:40 p.m.—SMB vs Purefoods

7:35 p.m.—Air21 vs Red Bull



ST. BENILDE'S Janilyn Sarabia dives over partner Faith Ann de Guzman during their semifinal match against Liza Mamatad and Mylin Que of University of Mindanao-Tagum. UMT prevailed, 25-21.

ERNE U. SARMENTO

Unheralded Capitol U pair shines

By Musong R. Castillo

BORACAY, AKLAN—EVEN BEFORE the formal opening rites could be held, rookie Capitol University of Cagayan de Oro put itself closer toward booking a special seat in the awards rites.

Capitol U hammered out victories over two tough foes to become the first team to enter the men's quarterfinals of the 10th Nescafe Beach Volley championships in this sun-baked island paradise.

Former women's champion Adamson also got off to a rousing start, nipping

gadas tripped Far Eastern, 25-19, early in the morning before stunning powerhouse University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, 25-22, three hours before the event was declared open.

"We never expected to go this far," the 5-foot-8 Gagadas said in Pilipino.

Defending champion Janelyn Patrone and Pio de Castro of St. Benilde quietly went about their business, ripping Ateneo de Davao, 25-13.

Former women's champion Adamson also got off to a rousing start, nipping

University of Mindanao-Davao to join early winners Mindanao State U, University of Mindanao-Tagum and Leman.

MSU played steadier in the stretch to pull off a 25-21 win over University of Baguio; UM-Tagum outgunned St. Benilde, 25-21; and the Lady Knights won over Holy Cross de Davao, 25-20.

In other men's play, Adamson beat MSU, 25-19; St. Francis routed UMD, 25-13; USJ-R outlasted MSU, 32-30; Foundation U ripped UMD, 25-16; and San Carlos ripped Ateneo de Davao, 25-15.

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PETRON

POC has P300M in unliquidated advances

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE IS THE MOST delinquent among the financial beneficiaries of the Philippine Sports Commission.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday admitted in a radio interview that the local Olympic body had received separate letters from the PSC and the Department of Budget and Management regarding its unliquidated cash advances.

Cojuangco said the two agencies wanted the POC to account for about P300 million in financial assistance, which was primarily used by the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) to fund operations during the country's hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last year.

"I have received communications from both the PSC and the DBM about... the (Philsoc) liquidations," said the POC chief, who was also the chief executive officer of the Philsoc. He said the Philsoc could not be dissolved yet as it had

not liquidated its advances. Cojuangco said he had ordered the different Philsoc committees to help "straighten out some of the (liquidation) procedures."

The Philippines spent more than P1 billion for the staging of the biennial Games, which the country won for the first time last December.

At least 40 national sports association have been dogged by liquidation problems. According to the PSC, their total unliquidated advances amounts to P66 million as of the end of April.

Mayol given fair chance to capture world crown

By Recah Trinidad

TOKYO—ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN INSIDE the boxing ring, but Rodel Mayol of the Philippines may no longer need one to succeed in his quest for a world crown tomorrow night at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo.

All that would be required of the unbeaten 24-year-old punching marvel from Mandaue City is for him to surpass himself.

That should be routine when Mayol goes for the World Boxing Council minimumweight crown of Eagle Kyowa, with tall odds favoring the champion, a Thai by the name of Del Jalpan masquerading as a Japanese.

Kyowa (15-1 with 6 KOs) suffered an accident when he dislocated a shoulder that reportedly required an operation to correct and for him to regain his world 105-lbs title later.

However, with his unblemished 22-0 (17 KOs) record, Mayol cannot be considered an accident waiting to happen to the champion.

Mayol has the necessary skills and power to wrest the world crown, says Games and Amusements Board boxing division chief Noli Flores.

"We saw Kyowa fight, we supervised one of his title defenses in Japan, and I can say Mayol has a fair chance of winning," Flores explains.

There's been no drastic change in the odds that would pay \$300 for a \$100 bet on Mayol, while a \$400 on Kyowa would give back only \$100.

Mayol's Japanese manager, Yasuo Matsuo, has told international boxing judge Salven Lagumbay his fighter has not been experiencing any trouble with the weight scales whatsoever.

The official weigh-in is scheduled today.

Defending OPBF bantam champion Malcolm Tuñacao of the Philippines clashes with challenger Yasuo Kijima of Japan in the undercard.

The bout will be covered by Solar Sports.

Mayol, in Tokyo for over a week now, has advantage of his early arrival to study Kyowa's style, which he availed of through videos and pointers from Japanese friends.

Mayol gained the right to challenge for Kyowa's crown after he stopped Mexican Lorenzo Trejo in the eliminator in Cancun, Mexico, last January.

SPORTSWATCH

Camarines Sur hosts TM Go-for-Gold

THE AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES BRINGS THE TM Go-for-Gold to the church patio of Caramoan, Camarines Sur, today. Supported by the local government of Caramoan headed by Mayor Francis "Kiko" Benamarito, the event features rising stars from the Carahan Boxing Club Inc. and the Aristad-Caramoan Inc. plus members of the national boxing team. Reigning Southeast Asian Games light-flyweight titleholder Harry Tatamor heads the Nationals who will show their wares.

NCA derby slated May 9 at Roligon

MORE THAN 60 FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN THE NATIONAL COCKERS ASSOCIATION'S first five-cock derby for the month on May 9 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parahaca City. Host Iggy Arroyo, owner of perennial NCA derby champions Red Creek I and Red Creek II entries, said respected names in local cockfighting are vying for top honors. Also expected to compete are Binangonan Belina I and Binangonan Belina of Ito Ynares, solo champion in the NCA 5-cocker last April 25; Wild Wing Sundance and Magic Wing Sundance of Ronnie Puno; AA Mulawin of Rudy Albano; Mulawin C VGB of F. Belin; Firefly 100 RM and Firefly RM 13 of the Firefly Group and William Go, respectively; BS Fatman S. Bacold of Tony Tan and Pepito Ngo; Zabong RT 114 of JV Magsaysay; Lucky Pin Firefly Binangonan and Lucky Pin Firefly Binangonan of Al de Guzman and Rene Medina.

Labanan 5-cocker gets going in Pasay

A CASH POT OF P400,000 IS AT STAKE IN THE PCCA LABANAN 5-COCK DERBY which gets going at 5 p.m. today at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupan Complex or 3003 as sponsor. Members of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association lead the participants, said pit manager Eric dela Rosa. Among those gunning for the title are Pepito Ngo, Sam Mendoza, Al de Guzman, Gov. Ito Ynares, Allan Slaco, Tito Reyes, Tony Lasala, Rod Villarubia, Bong Garcia, Boy Layag, Mel Bobby Doromal, Jake Macasaet, Charlie Lao, Walter Villanueva, Ramon Mancerares, Franklin Uy, Manny and Arman Santos and Roger Sagismando.

Last call for Makati's 'Salpukan' entries

COCKERS AND BREEDERS FROM THE PROVINCES HAVE UNTIL TODAY TO submit their entries in the ongoing "Summer Salpukan" 6-cock derby at the Makati Coliseum. Entries will be accepted from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. The fifth and last qualifying round (3-cocker) sizzles tomorrow. The derby is staking P4.4 million in cash and in kind for an entry fee of P11,000. Participants are vying for P3 million in total cash prizes, plus two brand new Toyota cars and two motorcycles. Promoters Lito Orlaza, Rudy Salud and William Co said that the Toyota Vios will be won by the fastest-win champion (last fight in the championship round). The Toyota Altis will be given to the participant with the fastest winning time (combination of all six fights). For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-8475.



BOXING IN THE BARANGAY: Fistorama producer and boxing promoter Edgardo "Boy" Cantada (fourth from left) barangay councilor Eduardo Saturno (third from left) seal with a handshake an agreement to bring Fistorama "live" to Barangay Bantug in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, on May 15 at 5 p.m. Looking on are (from left) Job Tubao, Diones Bernabe, city councilor Albert Castañeda and Dominador de la Cruz.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Thor Simba (2), Andorra (4),
Race 5—(Penis/Orn/Vir)—Manila's Style (8),
Forever Joyce (2), U Ara My Sunshine (3),
Raines Suprime (6), D As In Dixie (4),
Race 6—(Super 5/Orn/Vir)—Tarlac (1),
King Yat (9), Red Storm (6), the Don
star (1), Truly Impressive (5), The
Enchanted (8).

Deadlock at the diamond

Co-favorites Air21-Adamson, UP-Air Force play to 1-1 tie



AIR21-ADAMSON catcher Luvelyn Maganda gets ready for action at the start of the 4th inning watched by umpire Jovito Estarizao.

until she was picked for national duty. She subsequently joined the Air Force squad.

Propped up by the morning game, Air21-Adamson flexed its muscle against Laguna to rack out a 15-0 victory, while

UP-Air Force blasted Bacolod Junior, 10-0.

Manila also scored a 7-0 win after Bacolod Senior defaulted its game to take part in the Palarong Pambansa which begins this weekend in Naga City. The host

team now has three wins and one loss.

Rizal Technological University routed Pampanga, 8-1, in the men's division for its second win, even as its women counterpart edged Bacolod Junior, 4-3.

FAVORITES AIR21-ADAMSON AND University of the Philippines-Air Force played true to hype and forged an exciting 1-1 draw yesterday to gear up for a possible finals showdown in the women's side of the Philippine Open softball championships at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

The only teams with immaculate slates in the tournament thrilled the crowd that braved the oppressive heat. Later in the day, they drubbed separate rivals to each post a 3-win 1-draw card in women's play.

"It was a superb game for both teams," said Air21-Adamson manager Boy Codinera, who is also the event's chief organizer.

Shortstop Che Valenzuela singled, stole twice and scored on a catching error by Jenny de Jesus in the fourth inning for a 1-0 Adamson lead that held on until De Jesus, a member of the Southeast Asian Games champion Blue Girls, homered on a 1-1 pitch to left field to tie the count.

Ironically, De Jesus played for Adamson

until she was picked for national duty. She subsequently joined the Air Force squad.

Propped up by the morning game, Air21-Adamson flexed its muscle against Laguna to rack out a 15-0 victory, while

and we are in contract with cable providers to revise all international feeds for HBO Boxing."

Belmont arrived quietly in Manila last Wednesday hoping to visit the fight's venue, Araneta Coliseum, and to mingle with Pacquiao's fans.

"I like what I've seen so far, and I'd like to relay a message to Pacquiao that there is an element of risk for any fighter fighting in his own hometown," Belmont said.

"As the promoter and hero in this coming drama, Pacquiao could also get a lot of distractions, too many responsibilities—which are very dangerous for even a good fighter."

Belmont said Pacquiao should remember two things. "One, when Pacquiao destroyed Marco Antonio Barrera via an 11th-round TKO win in 2003 in San Antonio, Texas, the Mexican had majority of the crowd backing him up," Belmont said.

"And two, when welter Zab Judah lost to Carlos Baldemur of Argentina, there was derision in New York City, Judah's hometown. Judah was a forlorn figure after the loss."



like to own him."

He said network giant ABS-CBN, which is promoting the fight, is on track to becoming a world-caliber TV show provider of top fights.

"If our offer is accepted, the Pacquiao-Larios fight would have a worldwide audience either on the US-based Direct-TV or In-Demand affiliates in 50 countries," Belmont said.

"Our programs are 90 percent sports-related

MANNY PACQUIAO CANNOT LET HIS GUARD down against a quick fighter like Mexico's Oscar Larios, and the backing of the hornetown crowd could also work against their boxing idol.

American impresario Frank Belmont said yesterday that Pacquiao's July 2 bout with the wily Larios is certainly not a walk in the park.

"Larios is a good boxer, not a great puncher, durable quick, experienced and not easily intimidated," Belmont said of the fighter from Guadalajara.

As president of Belmonte Productions, Belmont knows whereof he speaks. He saw the fights of both Pacquiao and Larios in the "Boxeo de Oro," a monthly television series produced by the Golden Boy Promotions for Latin American audiences.

Larios, incidentally, is a mainstay of the Golden Boy Promotions of ring great Oscar de la Hoya.

"Larios is not a super-impressive fighter, but he is very professional," said Belmont. "The Mexican has all the tools and if I am a manager, I'd

Who'll stop Taiwan's pool juggernaut?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Inigo



of Pool" in billiards circles, Yang won the overall title of last year's \$250,000 Asian Tour. While he is "Mr. Cool" personified at the pool table, fans are forewarned not to be deceived by his appearance. Behind that quiet demeanor is a mean machine, a player oozing with awesome skills, creativity and booming breaks. A winner of the individual gold medal in the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, Yang also won the 2005 Philippine International 9-Ball Open.

He topped last year's third leg of the Asian Tour in his hometown, Kaohsiung. ■ WU CHIA-CHING: A pool prodigy from Taishan county in Taipei, Wu won last year's World Pool Championship in Kaohsiung to become the sport's youngest ever world champion at 16. The previous youngest world pool winner was American Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer, who won the crown in 1992 when he was 23. Banking on his explosive breaks and dogged desire to win, Wu never lost his cool in defeating 27-year-old compatriot Kuo Po-cheng, 17-16, in the nail-biting finals of the 2005 World Pool Championship. Wu is possibly the sport's most feared player at present.

• CHAO FONG-PANG: A veteran internationalist, Chao is a three-time Asian champion from 2000-02 and a two-time winner of the World Pool Championship (1993 and 2000). He was the first Asian to win the world pool title

twice. Called "Cold-Faced Killer" by the sports media, Chao launched his checkered career at age 14. The most experienced among the Chinese Taipei players, Chao may be old as a member of the Taiwanese team, but he is not out of the game. In fact, he has not shown signs of slowing. In my view, Chao should not be counted out because he is still good for some more years.

• MILESTONE: My family and I offer a toast to the low-profile George Chua, franchise owner of the Red Bull team in the PBA, on the occasion of his birthday today. Simply GCC to his friends, he has a special place in my heart for being sincere, honest and straightforward. There is no upper-class snobbiness in the way he treats people, always speaking in measured tones and avoiding personal attacks in stressing his point. A true-blue sportsman, Sir George has regularly supported the annual Philippine Sportswriters Association Awards Night, starting in the mid-1990s when I headed the PSA. It's a gesture he still does up to now.

Sports has always been a part of GCC's life. As a student, he played varsity football at Letran College together with Tony Chua, who is now the Red Bull team manager. He rose from the ranks to become a top executive of Photokina Marketing Corp., a company known for its corporate commitment to various sports like basketball, boxing, golf, bowling and billiards. But it is Photokina's participation in the Philippine Basketball Association which would go down as the company's crowning achievement. Since joining the pro league in 2000, GCC's team has won three titles, one runner-up trophy, one third-place plum and two fourth-place finishes. "I could not have asked for more," he said after his team's latest achievement.

Who are the leading Chinese Taipei players in the Asian Tour? Herewith, in no special order, are the Taiwanese players to watch:

• YANG CHING-SHUN: Known as the "Son

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

LeBron casts spell on Wizards in OT

Pistons cruise to second round

CLEVELAND, OHIO—LEBRON JAMES SCORED THE LAST OF HIS 45 POINTS on a decisive layup with nine-tenths of a second to play in overtime, rallying Cleveland for a 121-120 over Washington in the NBA playoffs Wednesday.

The triumph gave the Cavaliers a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference first-round series entering Friday's game six at Washington, where Cleveland can advance with a victory in a second-round matchup against Detroit.

Defending conference champion Detroit, led by Richard Hamilton's career playoff-high 40 points, routed visiting Milwaukee 122-93 to capture their first-round series four games to one.

But it was the finishing flourish of James that stole the show as the Cavaliers, who snapped an eight-year drought by just making the playoffs, moved with a victory of their first playoff series triumph since 1993.

Washington's Gilbert Arenas scored the last of his 44 points on two free throws with 3.6 seconds remaining in the extra session to give the Wizards a 120-119 edge.

The Cavaliers in-bounded the ball to James, who eluded Antawn Jamison on the baseline and moved to the basket, leaping high and dropping the ball in the hoop for the game-winning points in the last split second.

The Cavaliers led by eight points in the

final minutes of overtime before the Wizards closed with a 7-0 run, forcing over-time on the second of back-to-back baskets by Caron Butler with 7.5 seconds remaining in regulation.

"To lose after being up by eight with a minute and a half to go, it could have sunk our ship," James said. "We just found a way to win. It shouldn't have gone to overtime. We had some execution problems. But things happen."

"You can't let adversity kill your spirit." Jamison finished with 32 points while Butler had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards, who face elimination Friday at home unless they can force a seventh game here Sunday.

"King James" produced the highest scoring night so far in the playoffs and the game marked the first time players from rival teams had reached 40 points in the same playoff game since Shaquille O'Neal and Allen Iverson in the 2001 NBA Finals.

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rasheed Wallace added 22 points and Chauncey Billups 17 for the top-seeded Pistons, who seized a 39-23 lead after the first quarter thanks largely to Hamilton and

Michael Redd scored 23 points and Dan Gadzuric added 13 for the eighth-seeded Bucks. Australian forward Andrew Bogut scored 10 points. *AP*

Solar Sports will air the Phoenix-LA Lakers tussle with a replay at 8 p.m.

stayed tough to the finish.

Hamilton, shrugging off a left ankle injury that he suffered in the fourth quarter of game one, was shooting only 34 percent from the field in the series but went 5-of-6 in the first period and scored 15 points.

Hamilton scored nine more points in the second quarter that ended with the Pistons holding a 62-49 half-time edge.

"That's not what we wanted to start off the game," Milwaukee's Michael Redd said. "We definitely started sluggish, down, and in this game you have to play like a madman against a great team. We didn't do that and they made us pay for it."

Hamilton kept it going by making 6-of-7 shots and scoring 16 points in the third quarter, making 15-of-23 overall before departing to a standing ovation early in the fourth quarter.

Tayshaun Prince scored 12 points and Antonio McDyess added 11 while Ben Wallace grabbed 14 rebounds for Detroit.

Michael Redd scored 23 points and Dan Gadzuric added 13 for the eighth-seeded Bucks. Australian forward Andrew Bogut scored 10 points. *AP*

Solar Sports will air the Phoenix-LA Lakers tussle with a replay at 8 p.m.



LEBRON James (23) celebrates with a teammate after the Cavs' 121-120 win over the Wizards.

Suns' Bell silenced with 1-game suspension

NEW YORK—PHOENIX GUARD RAJA Bell will be forced to watch Thursday's critical playoff game from the bench after being suspended for one game here Wednesday by the National Basketball Association.

Bell received the punishment after a flagrant foul against Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant for "unnecessary and excessive contact," NBA vice president of basketball operations Stu Jackson said.

The Suns trail the Lakers three games

to two in the best-of-seven opening round series. The winner will advance to a Western Conference semi-final against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Bell fouled Bryant with 7 minutes and 33 seconds remaining in the fourth period of the Suns 114-97 victory over the visiting Lakers on Tuesday night.

As Bryant was driving into the lane, Bell wrapped his arm around Bryant's neck and sent the Lakers' playmaker to the

floor. Referees ejected Bell, who has served as the primary defender against Lakers' scoring leader Bryant.

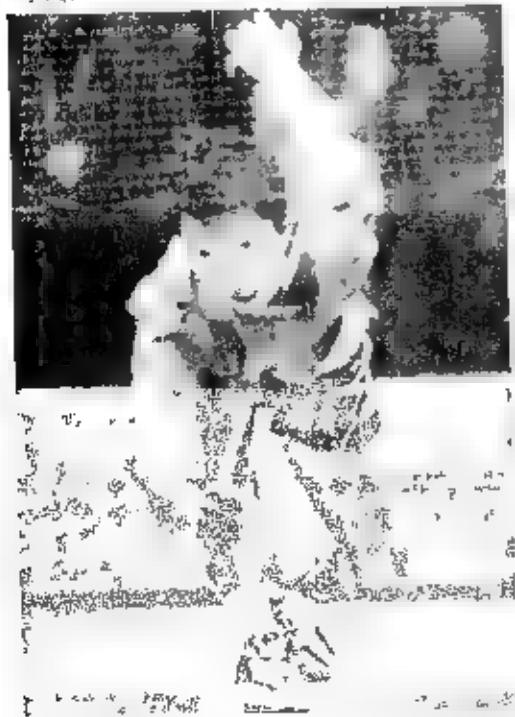
The second-seeded Suns will travel to seventh-seed Los Angeles for game six Thursday needing a victory to force a seventh game in Phoenix on Saturday.

Bell complained that his aggressive act came only after Bryant was allowed to foul him without being whistled by the referees.

"It's a personal thing when someone continually hits you in the face," Bell said Wednesday after the ban was announced.

"I continue to get hit in the face. There doesn't seem to be any boundaries to anything he can do to me." Told of Bell's complaints, Bryant said he had no idea what made it so personal for Bell.

"I don't know this kid. I haven't said four words to him," Bryant said. "Maybe he wasn't hugged enough as a kid." *AP*



HIDAYAT: Top attraction

Badminton Open lures world No.1

WITH A TALENT-LADEN FOREIGN CAST, THE first Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships presented by PLDT Business Solutions is expected to give local badminton a shot in the arm when it is staged May 24-28 at the Philsports Arena.

No less than reigning Olympic and world champion Taufik Hidayat has endorsed the staging of the event, saying it will further raise the level of play here and at the same time help develop local players of world-class caliber.

"The physique of the Filipinos is identical to most of the world champions whom I have played with," said Hidayat. "The only element needed for major success by Filipino players is more international competitions."

The Indian ace, the first player to win both the Olympic and world singles crown, has been hobbled by injuries the last few months but is expected to lead the foreign challenge in the event, the first IBF (International Badminton Federation) "four-star" tournament to be staged here which offers a total cash prize of \$120,000.

Hidayat saw action here last year when he slugged it out with the other world-caliber players in the MVP Cup.

The RP Open, sponsored by Bingo Bonanza and JVC (Phil.), Inc., gives local players the chance to obtain world-ranking points.

"We'd like to thank Ford Phils. for sponsoring the tournament and our 36 members for their active participation and support," said Federation League president Ogie Manalo.

Tickets are available at [Ticketworld](#).

Tiger loses 'best friend, greatest role model'

LOS ANGELES—EARL WOODS, WHO inspired and molded his son Eldrick into a golf legend, died Wednesday at age 74, superstar child Tiger Woods and wife Kultida at his bedside just before cancer claimed his life.

"He was my best friend and greatest role model and I will miss him deeply," Woods said in a Wednesday night posting on his website.

"He was the person I looked up to more than anyone. He was instrumental in helping me develop the drive to achieve, but his role—as well as my mother's—was one of support and guidance, not interference." Earl Woods died in the Cypress, California, home where he and his Thai wife raised their famous son, the 10-time major champion announced on his website.

"I'm very saddened to share the news of my father's passing at home early this morning," Woods said.

"My dad was my best friend and greatest role model, and I will miss him deeply. I'm overwhelmed when I think of all of the great things he accomplished in his life. He was an amazing dad, coach, mentor, soldier, husband and friend."



WOODS hugs his father Earl on May 19, 1997 during an American Express press conference in New York. *AP*

"I wouldn't be where I am today without him, and I'm honored to continue his legacy of sharing and caring." Former Green Beret soldier Earl Woods had been battling prostate cancer since 1998. He was treated with radiation but in 2004 the cancer returned and spread to other areas of his body.

"All of us at the PGA Tour are very saddened to learn of the passing of Tiger Woods' father Earl. Our hearts and deepest sympathies go out to Tiger

and his family during this very sad time," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finken said.

"Earl Woods will always be remembered for the tremendous way in which he and Tiger's mother Kultida provided Tiger with every opportunity to develop the physical and mental qualities that enabled Tiger to become the world's best golfer."

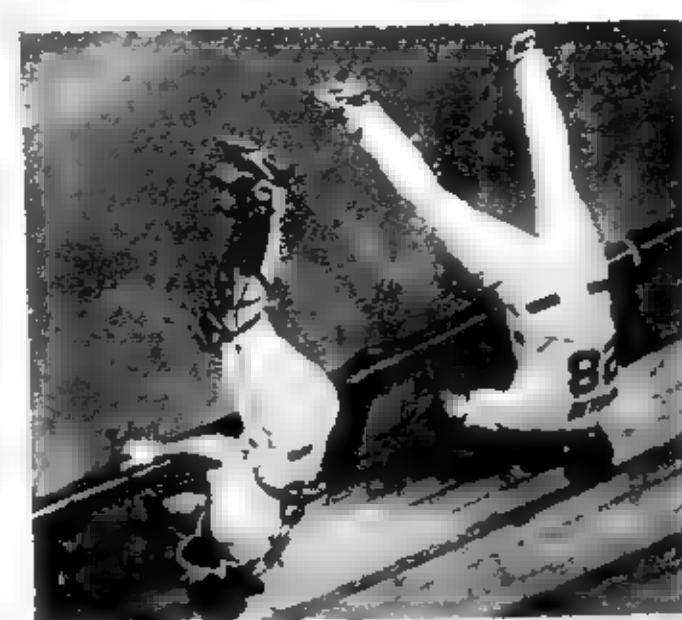
Dozens of PGA rivals expressed their sorrow to Woods and his family, appreciating the legacy Earl Woods left to the sporting world in his son.

Concerns over his father's health prompted Woods to make a round-trip cross country flight for a visit on the eve of the Player's Championship in March.

His father's health was a worry as he played last month's Masters tournament, the first time his father had not made the trip to Georgia to watch his son at the event.

One of the enduring moments in Woods' career was the scene of him hugging his father after walking off the 18th green at Augusta National Golf Club following his 1997 Masters victory, the first major victory by a black golfer. *AP*

HSBC Ace golf fest stakes millions



GOT YA: San Francisco Giants catcher Mike Matheny (left) makes the catch as he falls over the railing of the Milwaukee Brewers dugout with teammate Lance Niekro on a pop up by Brewers Bill Hall in the fifth inning. *AP*

HSBC IS GEARING UP TO CHANGE THE FACE of amateur golf in the Philippines as it hosts the HSBC Ace Golf Challenge on May 29 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

A collaboration with ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), the event is expected to gather 400 golfers from all over the Philippines to simultaneously compete in the Dye, Norman and Faldo courses for over P500 million prizes.

Each course will have two designated par-3 holes that promise P1 million in cash and one million air miles with Philippine Airlines (PAL) as hole-in-one prizes each. One million air miles can take you to Hong Kong 66 times, the West Coast 15 times, Boracay 125 times and many times over to local and international destinations where PAL flies.

Aside from a total of P3 million in cash and three million air miles at stake in the hole-in-one pot for three courses, golfers will vie for 16 major prizes in the tournament that will use the 18-hole stroke play format.

Champions for each of the eight divisions will get a free trip to HSBC Champions tournament in Shanghai, China. Runners-up get P15,000 each.

Ford satellite regionals up

ACTION IN THE FORD NATIONAL TEAM shootout shifts into high gear beginning today with the staging of the satellite regional series at The Orchard and Cebu Country Club.

The tilt serves as the second stage of a three-phase series culminating in the grand finals where the top three teams from each of the five regionals will qualify for the championships set at Orchard on May 25 and at Sta. Elena on May 26.

A big field of 340 teams, including a record 90-squad contingent from Orchard, joined the event organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Phils. Inc. and Swing Magazine with Ford Phils. as the chief sponsor.

"We'd like to thank Ford Phils. for sponsoring the tournament and also to all our 36 club members for their active participation and support to make this tournament a huge success," said Federation president Ogie Manalo.

The foursome of Marthy and Munding del Rosario, Berna Jalosjos and Powie Tugade emerged at the top of the heap with a net score of 60 at the eliminations for the event at the Riviera Golf and Country Club recently.

Over at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, the foursome of Oliver Gan, Sunny Sun, Jr., Angelina Co and Vic Siangho led the field with a net score of 60.

The foursome of Delie Castillo, Marco Mendoza, Levi Roque and Virgilio Romero topped the Lusina Golf and Country Club qualifier with a net score of 61.

Gerry Silva, Mari Hechanova, Jose Rad Ocampo and Charo Buencamino lit it up with a net score of 59 at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club elim.

For details, contact FedGolf Office at (02) 840-3951 or visit [www.swing.ph](#).

Wie shoots 70 in SK opener

INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA—MICHELLE WIE putted well Thursday during a first-round, 2-under-par 70 at the SK Telecom Open, remaining in contention for making her first cut at a men's tournament.

The Hawaiian-born teenager was five strokes off the lead in her eighth men's tournament after Australia's Adam Le Vesconte shot a 65. Malaysia's Iain Steel, Lee Sung-ho of South Korea and Australian Brad Kennedy mustered 67s.

Defending champion K.J. Choi shot a 68 and shared fifth place with Thailand's Chayaphan Nirut, Adam Groom of Australia, South Korea's Cho Hyun-jun, Choi Sang-ho and Choi Kyung-ju, and local amateur bonshots Hur In-hoi and Maeng Dong-seop.

Petron taekwondo May 6-7

AROUND 1,000 JINS FROM METRO MANILA AND the provinces are expected to see action in the 2006 Petron New Face of the Year taekwondo championships slated May 6-7 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado said competition will be conducted in eight categories—senior men and women, junior men and women, mid-junior men and women and grade school boys and girls. Petron, Milo, Philippine Sports Commission and Accol are supporting the event, which starts at 9 a.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

Sarah Geronimo overworked?

From page A2-1

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:40, 8:30

2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE III
MTRCB PG-13
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 LMF

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12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10

3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50

4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

SILENT HILL
PG13
2:30, 5:10

THE SENTINEL
PG13
7:50, 10:10

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
PG13
2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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for the soap, recording of the soap's soundtrack. I just came home from shows in Canada, where it was very cold."

Does she ask her mom permission to miss work now and then?

"Sometimes," she admitted. "I tell her when I'm too tired. But I've

come to accept that, being an actress-singer, it's my responsibility to show up and honor all my commitments."

Longing

She said she related well with

SARAH/A2-3

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
11:30, 2:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:45
PG 13

3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
PG 13

AQUAMARINE
1:05, 3:35, 6:35, 8:35, 11:00

SILENT HILL
2:30, 5:10, 8:10, 10:45
K-13

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G4	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 AQUAMARINE	3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	4 GUARANTEED SEATS
CB1	4 SENTINEL	5 THE WILD	6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	7 SILENT HILL
GB3	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	3 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
ATC	3 SILENT HILL	4 AQUAMARINE	5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	6 GUARANTEED SEATS
ACC	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	3 NORTH COUNTRY	4 THE DARK
M2	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 AQUAMARINE	3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

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Sarah Geronimo overworked?

the opening stanza of the song "Bitung Walang Ningnung." (The *sineserye* premieres May 15.)

"It says that even if you've achieved your dreams, you still long for something," she said. "Meron pa ring kanting lumbay. (There's still a certain sadness.)"

It's probably the inevitable sacrifices she has had to make for fame and fortune. "I've been so busy, I've had to give up truly important things, like time with my family. When I get home, my siblings are asleep. I can't even hug them or

talk to them as often as I used to."

Not that she's not grateful to the biz. "I'm thankful because I've fulfilled my dreams," she said.

But it's a tough balancing act, she acknowledged. "I also have my studies to take care of. It's important to me that I finish school. I'm a high school senior under the home study [program] of the Angelicum College."

She intends to take up a music-relat-

ed course in college.

Her calendar is so crammed, it looks like she will be celebrating her debut on the soap. (Yes, it will be incorporated in the show, according to the soap's directors Jerome Chavez Pobocan and Erick C. Salud.)

Sarah turns 18 on July 25.

Maybe a vacation would be the best gift for the hardworking champ? With a report from Valerie Cruz

Cheryl whacked partner...

From page A2-1

They were both very nervous at the start, Cheryl said. "Later, I came to him as a down-to-earth person—he didn't seem like a celebrity at all. We communicated really well. He's hardworking and always determined to do a good job; it's easy for me to teach someone like that."

The New York-based dancing champ and her mom, Sherne Bautista-Burke, are in town for a weeklong visit. On her birthday (May 2), Cheryl paid a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacanang.

Did you know that you're big news here?

No. But I'm sure I wouldn't have won if not for all the support that I got from Filipinos.

How have you been since your victory?

Drew and I visited a lot of shows. We have been on the "Elen Degenere" show. That was a nice experience. We also did "The View" in New York, "The Tony Danza Show" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" To this day, I have so many celebrities, like Samuel L. Jackson, coming up to me saying, "Wow! I enjoyed the show." Ten Hatchet from "Desperate Housewives" said she watched, too.

How easy was it to teach Drew?

Drew is a quick learner. He put a lot of time into it. He never complained. He wanted to win. I hope to have a partner like

Do you see yourself crossing over to acting?

I definitely plan on capitalizing on what I'm good at. But it wouldn't hurt to take acting lessons on the side. You'll never know. One day maybe I could dance and act in a show or a movie where I could dance but need to act as well.

Have you tried auditioning on Broadway?

Not yet. We'll see in the future. I definitely want to keep doing "Dancing with the Stars" and see where that takes me. I'm taking it slow; I want to make the right decisions.

(Cheryl will be featured on ABS 5's "Shall We Dance" and ABS-CBN's "The Buzz," "Wowowee," "ASAP" with Boy Abunda, "HomeBoy," "Breakfast" and "Myx.") With Sheena Jade Barrion and Valerie Cruz

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2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00	7 THE WILD 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
3 THE SENTINEL 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	8 SLITHER 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
4 PAMAHIN 12:40 3:00 5:20	9 SILENT HILL 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25
5 AQUAMARINE 12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50	10 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

ERMITA

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 8:00	5 THE WILD 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 SLITHER 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00	6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
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4 AQUAMARINE 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	8 SILENT HILL 11:00 1:30 4:30 7:10 9:50

METRO EAST

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A2-4

ENTERTAINMENT

Waiting for the other shoe to fall

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY,
MAY 5, 2006



VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

THESE PAST DAYS, entertainment workers and show biz buffs have been excitedly waiting for the other shoe to fall in various areas of specific interest.

On the film front, when will the MTRCB announce the classification it's giving to "The Da Vinci Code," due for showing in the Philippines next month?

Some are hoping it will be "X-ed," being an "attack" on the Christian faith due to its speculation that Jesus Christ had a romantic relationship with Mary Magdalene, and that a daughter resulted from their union.

More viewers want the MTRCB to classify the movie "For Adults" (R-18) because, in their view, its provocative speculations require a mature mind to properly handle.

The film has been classified PG-13 in the States, which means that even youths can see it there, provided they're accompanied by adults.

With this more liberal rating, the US classifiers are saying that the movie isn't as potentially harmful to young viewers as the "For Adults" proponents fear.

That's why there are a number of Filipino film buffs who hope that the film will also get a PG-13 rating here.

Just to add another layer of instructive relevance to the ongoing discussion—"The Da Vinci Code" will be shown in the People's Republic of China, and the censors there have rated the movie "For General Patronage."

That's a big surprise, and just goes to show how varying national and ideological contexts can result in strongly different verdicts.

So, what will the MTRCB's own decision be?

Who's next "Idol"?

ON TV, the big fuss is over who the 2006 "American Idol" will be. The respective cadres of fans of surviving finalists Katherine McPhee, Chris Daughtry, Elliott Yamin, Paris Bennett and Taylor Hicks are surely moving heaven, earth and the show's massive text-voting mechanism to make sure that their favorite(s) will win.

The recent defeat of the "sure-fire" likes of Ace Young and Kellie Pickler has struck dread in the hearts of even consistent top scorers like Chris and Katherine—so, it's anybody's guess who the "ultimate" winner will be.

Any audacious predictions?

Pundaquit Festival

CASA San Miguel, arts and music center of San Antonio, Zamboanga, welcomes the month of May with free evening concerts in the 13th Pundaquit Festival.

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MOVIE GUIDE

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Co-stars sing Tom Cruise's praise

LOS ANGELES—A DAY BEFORE WE WERE to interview Tom Cruise, he and Katie Holmes welcomed Suri into this world.

So the brand new papa cancelled the press con. Tom's peers in "Mission: Impossible III" ("MI3")—director J.J. Abrams, friend and co-producer Paula Wagner, co-stars Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Michelle Monaghan, Keri Russell and, on a separate day, Philip Seymour Hoffman—genuinely talked about the absent superstar. Lovely Hong Kong actress Maggie Q, Laurence Fishburne, Ving Rhames and Billy Crudup are also in the cast but were not in the press con talent lineup.

Paula joined us during our lunch break. Someone threw a question, the perfect one to ask just as we were nibbling on a salad of greens: "You have heard the rumors that Tom ate the placenta [at Suri's delivery]?" Paula, her eyes suddenly grown big, exclaimed, "That was a joke!"

Shot in Shanghai, Rome and the US, "MI3" is a surprisingly personal installment on the con-

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

of, from our experience, being the first and so far the only one to go on a toilet break in the middle of an interview. He politely asked for a men's room break when we interviewed him in New York last year for Woody Allen's acclaimed "Match Point." In that same session, Scarlett Johansson, whose scenes with Jonathan sized onscreen, said that off-screen, the actor loved hear the latest gossip.

JONATHAN RYHS MEYERS

I never saw a Scientology tent on the "Mission Impossible" set. Before I went on the movie, I heard, "Oh, there'll be a Scientology tent." I was looking for it for four months (laughter) and didn't find it. Tom would never talk about his religious beliefs. I don't think he'd want to push it on anybody. I suppose if you are interested in Dianetics and you wanted to talk to Tom about it, I am sure he'd sit down to tell you what it's all about. He never asked me, "Would you be interested in Scientology?"

I never saw any Scientologists on the set, either. Maybe I wouldn't recognize one, but I'd imagine they're just human beings like the rest of us (laughter) so it was never an issue. My friends would ring up from Ireland going, "So are you a Scientologist yet (laughter)?" I am like, "I've been looking for this tent for four months. Maybe they're hiding it from me."

It's strange going to the circus [in Shanghai] with Tom Cruise. I am sitting in the third row with Philip Seymour and Michelle Monaghan. Sitting behind us are Tom and Katie. It's really funny. The circus is happening out here (points in front of him), yet all the audience is looking them (laughter as he points in the back) so you're kind of doing this the whole time (looks front and behind) because you're not sure which circus is more interesting (laughter).

Tom is incredibly famous all over the world. Tom can't just go and have coffee or a meal in any restaurant. It is an operation because for both his safety, the safety of the people he's with and for his own sense of peace and quiet, he has to arrange things where he avoids those crowds. Everybody wants a minute or a photograph with him.

Tom is one of those people who are so in touch with their audience. I think he spent three hours out there at the circus just posing for photographs and signing autographs because he can't say no. If some 11-year-old kid comes up and says, "I want a photograph with the 'Mission Impossible' man," Tom is not going to walk away from that kid. People have to almost drag Tom away and say, "Tom, no, you can't do that anymore." He feels a really strong connection.

The more successful and the more famous people are, usually the nicer they are. Tom has an awful lot of respect for people because how can you stay at the top of your game for almost three decades without being really respectful? And he works very hard.

Setting the bar high

On the set of "Mission Impossible," we were working 16 hours a day. Tom was always the first there and always the last to leave. As soon as I finish wrapping a day's shooting, I am out the door, in the car, off to my life whereas Tom would go back and start discussing the next day so he's really motivated in that way. I am not quite sure that all successful actors are as dedicated as Tom is.

In the movie, I have a fight on an Italian street with Tom Cruise. I was 9 years old when I watched "Top Gun" so from my point of view, that's kind of strange. I grew up with this face. Tom is more familiar to me than all my schoolteachers were (laughter) because I saw him this big on a 50-foot screen. I never saw my schoolteachers on a 50-foot screen (laughter).

Tom sets the bar incredibly high because he is probably one of the top five stuntmen in the world. He has trained with the best over a period of 20 years so there's nothing that he hasn't been intricately trained to do. Tom does all his own stunts. I was impressed. I remember standing on the set one day and the first AD (assistant director) turned to Tom and said, "We've got a platform. It's about 70 feet up in the air and we're going to tie you like a wire. You're going to pendulum drop 70 feet and swing up the other side." I'm standing next to Tom and he goes, "Cool!" (laughter). I said cool to me is a John Wayne triple bill on TV and lots of Reese's Butter Cups. Death-defying pendulum swing at 70 feet above the studio floor is not really my idea of cool but it is Tom's.

I, on the other hand, am not one of the top five stuntmen in the world. I am one of

CO-STARS/A2-5



KERI Russell: "Fun."



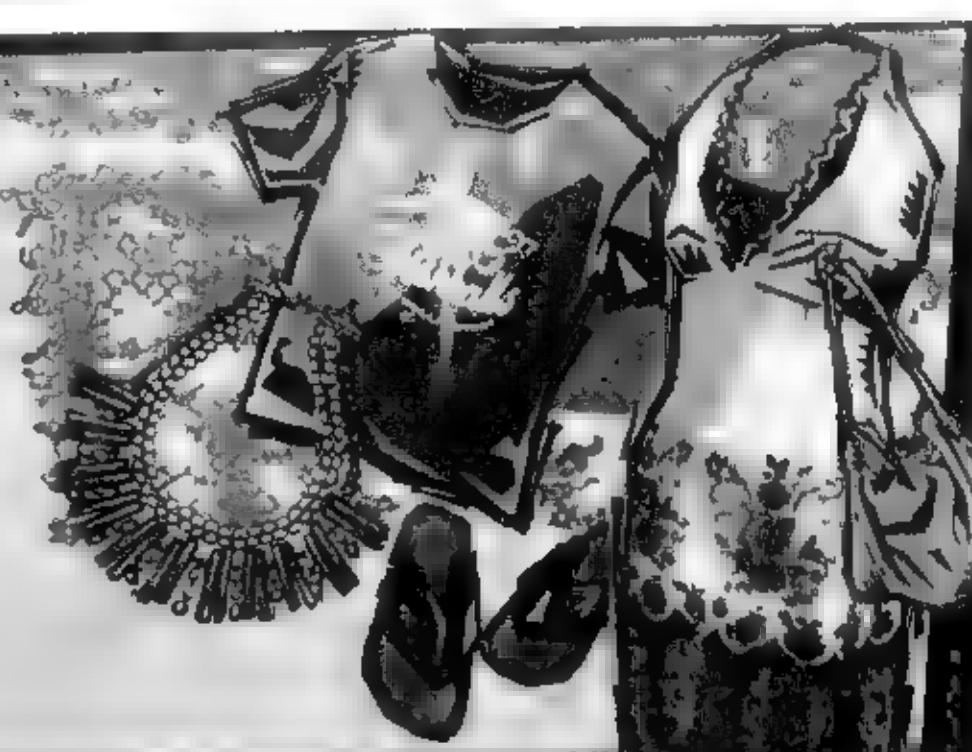
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Neda sees RP economy growing by 5.5% in Q1

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT Authority has projected that the country's economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew by more than 5.5 percent in the first quarter of the year due to improved performance of the agriculture sector. (Full story on Page B4.)

BUSINESS

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NISSAN

Razon buys out Sorianos in ICTSI for P5.9B

Acquisition boosts holdings of company CEO to 51%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A. SORIANO CORP. (ANSCOR), THE LISTED HOLDING FIRM OF the Soriano family, has sold its entire 23-percent stake in profitable port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) to the group of Enrique Razon Jr for P5.9 billion.

Anscor said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its board approved yesterday the sale of its direct and indirect stake in ICTSI at P11.75 each. The 23-percent holdings were equivalent to 503.3 million shares.

The deal was completed yesterday through a cross sale at the PSE. ICTSI closed at P13 a share yesterday.

Razon, who sits as ICTSI chair, put up a spe-

cial-purpose holding firm to acquire and hold the shares for this transaction. Razon's offer of P11.75 a share is payable within 30 days.

In making the offer, Razon told Anscor that he wanted to increase his stake in ICTSI, which he has controlled as chair and chief executive since 1997, Anscor said in its disclosure to the PSE.

RAZON/B2

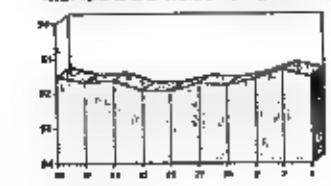
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 **Anscor's P6-B pepper-upper** /B5

Bangko Sentral maintains key policy rates /B4

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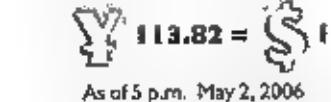
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P 51.53 = \$

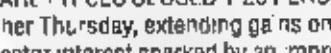
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APRIL MAY

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APRIL MAY

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Shares continue to rise

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.26 PERCENT higher Thursday, extending gains in foreign investor interest sparked by an improved fiscal outlook and expectations of strong first-quarter results, dealers said

SHARES/B2



PRESIDENT Arroyo presses the button during the ceremonial switch on at the inauguration of a biodiesel plant in Quezon City on Wednesday. The Philippines opened what it described as Asia's biggest coconut-based biodiesel plant as the country turns to crops that it produces in abundance like coconuts and sugar to cut its dependence on imported oil.

REUTERS

WHAT'S INSIDE

 **Anscor's P6-B pepper-upper** /B5

Bangko Sentral maintains key policy rates /B4

Portofino THE NEW ALABANG

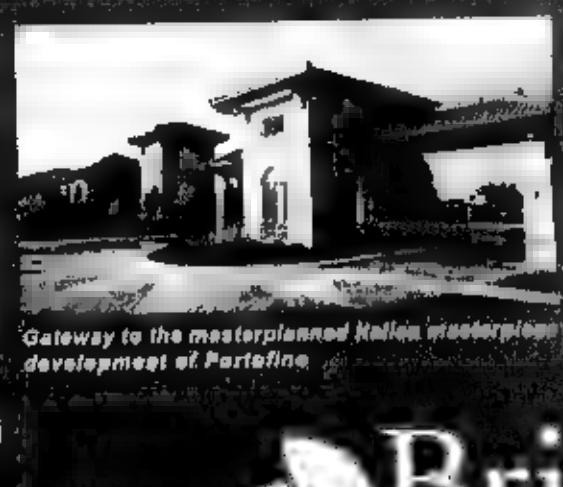
THE NEAREST, HOTTEST DEVELOPMENT
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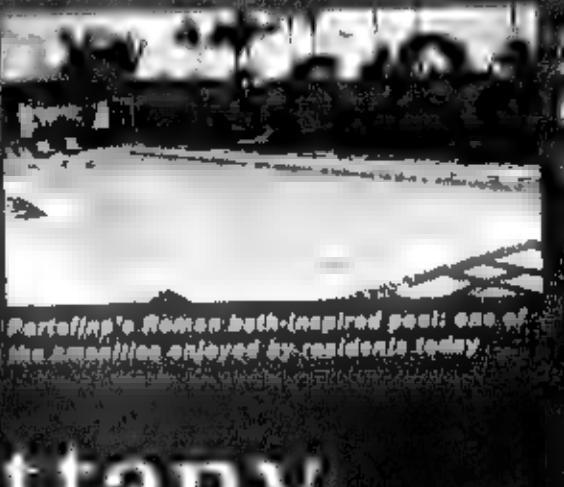
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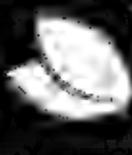
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Enrile seeks probe of PHC

Bangko Sentral maintains key policy rates

By Doris C. Dunbar

THE MONETARY BOARD YESTERDAY KEPT the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' key policy rates steady for the seventh straight month in line with its assessment that inflation would slow down starting the second semester.

The BSP's overnight borrowing rate was maintained at 7.5 percent and the overnight lending rate at 9.75 percent.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Divina Guinigundo yesterday said the outlook for inflation was "manageable" despite temporary spikes caused by the recent hike in the value-added tax rate.

He noted that average inflation rate was expected to return to the target level of 4.5 percent in the absence of renewed domestic or external shocks.

"The board also considered the evidence of stable core inflation, limited demand-based pressures and the absence of second-round effects on wage- and price-setting," Guinigundo said.

The board, however, recognized the remaining risks to the inflation outlook, particularly the recent increases in domestic oil prices.

"The prospect of continued oil price increases in the next few months, along with the expected adjustments in domestic power costs, point to a continuing buildup in supply-side pressures," Guinigundo said.

"Such a prospect increases not only the risks to inflation but also the likelihood of second-round effects," he stressed.

Guinigundo added the Monetary Board's policy priority was to manage inflation expectations as well as the risks of potential second-round effects in wage and price-setting.

"At the same time, given that price pressures remain rooted in supply-side sources, the board will continue to support the use of non-monetary measures by concerned government agencies which can more directly address the impact of increased transport and energy costs," he said.

He said the BSP was committed to achieving the inflation target for 2007 and addressing the risks to inflation.

SEC sets another stockholders' meet

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SENATOR JUAN PONCE ENRILE, ONE OF THE founding shareholders of Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), yesterday slammed the board of Philcomsat Holdings Corp., including government nominees, for allegedly "dissipating" the assets of the listed firm.

In yesterday's stockholders' meeting of PHC, Enrile asked the board to explain where a substantial portion of the P1 billion in cash that PHC allegedly got from Philcomsat was spent.

"PHC is a recipient of almost P1 billion in cash from Philcomsat. I saw the records, the money is now down to P600 million. Where did the money go?" he said.

Enrile also questioned the benefits received by officers and directors of PHC even if the company was incurring huge losses.

Citing the company's 2004 financial reports, Enrile said some directors were getting huge salaries and bonuses. He also said there were officers who received housing loans from the company at a measly 6 percent interest.

"Where in the world can you find a compa-

ny that pays bonuses to its officers while it is losing?"

"The company is being raided by outsiders. They are nominees of the government and that is the tragedy of it. PHC has become a vehicle to dissipate the assets," Enrile said.

He said he would inform President Macapagal-Arroyo "of the abuses done by POGG (Presidential Commission on Good Government) nominees in PHC."

He added that he would initiate the holding of a Senate hearing to find out any deficiency in the law that had led to the problems of PHC and to ensure that minority shareholders were protected.

As yesterday's meeting failed to tackle the matters of the PHC board election and validation of proxies, the Securities and Exchange Commission decided to call for another meeting to be held on May 9. The SEC has continued validating proxies for the expected PHC board election.

Enrile was among the company's minority shareholders that also include Jose Ozamiz, and the Africa and Ilusorio families. They control 51 percent of the company.

Tribunal awards FGPC \$11.2M

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL PRESIDING OVER the dispute between First Gas Power Corp. and German firm Siemens has made its third interim award of \$11.2 million to First Gas and \$8.5 million to Siemens.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, First Gas parent firm First Gen Corp. said the award was exclusive of interest which had yet to be determined.

The dispute between the two firms stemmed from delays in the implementation of a turnkey engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract that First Gas entered into with Siemens AG, Siemens Power Generation and Siemens Inc. for the construction of the 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita combined-cycle power facility in Batangas.

The tribunal is expected to make a final award later in the year to determine outstanding issues regarding interests and costs of the arbitration proceedings, First Gen vice president and compliance officer Victor Santos Jr. said.

In a statement, First Gen vice chair Peter D. Garrucho Jr. said the award had affirmed that FGPC was not responsible for the delays in the implementation of the contract involving the Sta. Rita power plant in 1999 and 2000.

Under the tribunal's third interim award, First Gas was granted \$11.2 million, including the \$5-million balance of liquidated damages owed by Siemens, for its remaining counter-claims against the German firm. Siemens, for its part, was awarded approximately \$8.5 million for its remaining claims against First Gas.

First Gas alleged that delays in the project completion could be attributable to Siemens and its sub-contractors, even as Siemens sought \$99.3 million worth of liquidated damages from First Gas pursuant to the provisions of the EPC contract.

First Gas withheld \$94.3 million of that amount, prompting Siemens to file a request for arbitration to the International Chamber of Commerce in London in December 2002.

In the arbitration request, Siemens had claimed the payment of the withheld sum, plus some \$64 million to cover alleged "prolongation costs" and miscellaneous matters.

The second interim award, which was given in November last year, declared that Siemens was entitled to extensions of time and/or suspension of liquidated damages for 32 days for Block 1 and 60 days for Block 2 of the contract.

The tribunal said First Gas, for its part, was entitled to \$99.3 million in liquidated damages for the delay.

Coconut oil is cholesterol free

By Ernesto M. Ordóñez

AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE Management Association of the Philippines-Agribusiness and Countryside Development Foundation led by chair Ramon Ilusorio and president Vicente Agustin, a renowned physician participated. He was Dr. Conrado Dayrit, father of former Health Secretary

COMMENTARY

Manuel Dayrit, but more importantly, the leading expert on coconut's health benefits.

An important conclusion reached during the meeting was that agribusiness management skills, MAP-ABCD's main strength, had to be harnessed to promote coconuts' extraordinary health attributes. The biggest factor that prevented this from happening was an international campaign launched by management experts that coconut oil was rich in cholesterol.

The truth is the very opposite. Coconut oil is not only completely cholesterol free, it is also very powerful in fighting bacteria, preventing infection, weight reduction and enhancing skin beauty.

Industry's role

Let us take a look at the coconut industry's role in our nation's life. One third of our country's agricultural land (about 3.31 million hectares), covering 64 out of 78

provinces, is planted to coconut. Philippine coconut exports account for 65 percent of the world-traded coconut products. The local industry supplies 64 percent of global oil requirements. About 24 million Filipinos, or 1/3 of the population, benefit from the coconut industry.

It is, therefore, distressing to find coconut oil attacked in an international me-

dia campaign by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which warned people against all saturated oils. This was based on the assumption that all saturated fats are the same: rich in cholesterol and a cause of heart disease. This is wrong.

Although saturated fats from animal sources and dairy products are cholesterol-rich, coconut oil is derived from a plant and is cholesterol-free. In 1986, the CSPI added coconut oil to its list of saturated fat villains. In its publications, it condemned coconut as hydrogenated and cholesterol-rich.

Campaign management

Coconut is a stable oil that does not need to be hydrogenated and has absolutely no cholesterol. The result of the CSPI campaign boosted the use of soybean and other vegetable seed oils, while virtually eliminating coconut oil from the diet of consumers in the developed world.

Just as the CSPI campaign was effectively managed, there is an urgent need to also effectively manage a campaign to counter this false information. We must also promote the little known health benefits of coconut.

While many publications identify these benefits, only a few explained and supported them with the research necessary for an effective promotional campaign. One of these is "RX: Coconuts (The Perfect Health Nut)" by Dr. Veronique Verallo-Rowell. In this book, she cites the research done by Dr. Dayrit and Dr. Jon Kabara of the US.

Two little-known findings

There are two more important findings that are not well known. The first is that coconut oil is rich in lauric acid which, in the intestines, naturally becomes a substance called monolaurine that contains antiseptic properties.

Verallo-Rowell says: "This finding should have been a landmark discovery, much like the discovery that penicillin can be synthesized from the fungus 'penicillium'. Even today, a surprising number of doctors have never heard of monolaurine." As an example of its potency, it was shown that the gel prepared with 1.5 percent monolaurine is as effective as a 70-percent isopropyl alcohol gel in eliminating bacteria immediately.

The second finding is that co-

conut oil is a medium-chain rather than a long-chain oil. Examples of long-chain oils are those derived from beef, animal fats, fish, and several vegetable and seed oils such as soy bean, canola, corn, cotton seed, and sunflower. Taking medium-chain rather than long-chain oils results in lower body weight, fewer fat deposits, and other weight-loss-promoting capabilities.

Verallo-Rowell also says that: "When eating coconut oil, the good HDL cholesterol goes up while the bad LDL remains the same."

Taking coconut oil, therefore, prevents weight gain and accumulation of unhealthy fat deposits. It also enables the increase of good cholesterol that can fight bad cholesterol in one's body.

Conclusion

It is imperative that the same management techniques used to promote the very effective but totally false and destructive campaign against coconut oil be used now to advocate the truth that coconut is "the tree of life." This will redound to the recovery and increased markers that coconut will capture, as well as to the benefit of the millions of coconut farmers who are now mired in poverty.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or [02-8516635](tel:02-8516635).)

Razon buys out Sorianos in ICTSI for P5.9B

In its 2005 annual report, Anscor said that together with the Razon group, they hold directly and indirectly 51 percent of ICTSI.

Anscor management said it accepted Razon's offer since it thought it was "an opportune time" to realize its investment in ICTSI.

"This will enable Anscor to realize the book profits and equity earnings that (it) has accumulated from its investment in ICTSI in the last 18 years representing an annual return of 22 percent," the company said in its disclosure.

Anscor added that the pro-

ceeds from the deal would allow the company to share the profits to its shareholders through a special dividend.

The divestment will also allow the company to consider other investment opportunities.

Anscor plans to declare a special one-time cash dividend of P1.25 a share once it receives the sale proceeds on June 4. Anscor's board will meet to approve the dividend and set the record and payment dates.

Two principal investments accounted the lion's share of Anscor's net income and asset base: ICTSI and Phelps Dodge.

Philippines Energy Products Corp., which manufactures wire and cable products.

Anscor also has interests in tourism, aviation, business process outsourcing, call center, nurse deployment, broadband services and real estate.

Anscor owns Seven Seas Resorts & Leisure Inc., which runs the Amanpulo Resort, recognized annually since its opening in 1994 as one of the best beach resorts in the world.

It also has investments in E-Telcare International, the call center company spun off from SPI Tech-

nologies in 2003; International Quality Manpower Services Inc. (IQMAN), a venture engaged in deployment of registered nurses to the United States; and in Multi-media Telephony Inc. (MTI), a provider of a full range of voice, short-messaging and high-speed data services.

Its subsidiary, Anscor Land, oversees the group's real estate assets such as properties in Cebu and Puerto Princesa as well as an investment in the Enterprise Center on Ayala Avenue. Anscor also owns A. Soriano Air Corp., the operator of hangars used by Seven Seas Resorts and Ten Knots Group (El Nido Resorts).

Stock Exchange

(As of May 4, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Abstrakt Dev Bank Inc.	68	68	66	338,000	
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36.5	36.5	36.4	4,540,600	
Bank of the Phil. Islands	32.5	32.5	32.4	5,060	
China Banking	800	800	790	500	
City Savings & Trust	20.25	20.25	20.25	13,160,000	
East West Bancorp. A	0.45	0.45	0.45	410	
Ecu. Inv. Corp.	73.5	73.5	72	192,300	
First Inv. Corp. B	38	39	38	260,500	
First Inv. Corp. B 1/2	38.5	40.5	39	2,49,000	
Ph. Inv. Corp.	34	35	34	16,300	
Rizal First Banking Corp.	16.5	17	16.5	444,100	
Sec. Inv. Corp.	54	54.5	54.5	115,000	
Union Bank of the Phil.	41.5	41.5	40.5	30,500	
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30	30	30	10,000	
Ma. Jose Trans. Inc.	32.50	32.50	32.50	410	
PC Inv. Corp. Inc.	1	1.02	1	720,000	
Phil. Inv. Corp. Inc.	2140	2140	2140	1,20	
Philippine Corp.	1.34	1.44	1.34	15,543,000	
INDUSTRIAL					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5	341,500
First Phil. Corp.	45	45	44	44	583,000
Manda Electr. Co. A	13	13	13	13	27,768
Manda Electr. Co. B	19	19	19	19	38,000
Manda Water Co. Inc.	7.45	7.45	7.2	7.2	7,841,000
Petron Corp.	4.35	4.45	4.35	4.4	1,520,000
Trans. Corp. Oil Ind.					500,000
Alphab. Min. Corp.	3.45	3.45	3	3	22,000
CADP Group 2nd	3.15	3.15	3	3	32,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	23	23.25	23	23	20,000
Greenfield Min					

Neda sees RP economy growing by 5.5% in Q1

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, AS MEASURED by the gross domestic product, is expected to have grown by more than 5.5 percent in the first quarter of the year due to improved performance of the agriculture sector, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

The forecast for the first quarter of this year is better than the 4.6 percent posted

in the same period last year.

"We have likely attained that growth level because of contributions by the agriculture sector," Neri said in a telephone interview.

The country's chief economist noted that the agriculture sector, which accounts for about a fifth of the country's economic output, grew 4.8 percent in the first three months of this year. This was a turnaround from the 0.1-percent contrac-

tion recorded in the first quarter of 2005.

Officials from the Department of Agriculture earlier attributed the stronger-than-expected performance of the agriculture sector to the growth in the production of rice and corn. The government projected earlier that the agriculture sector was only likely to grow 4 percent in the first quarter.

The government has also said that the El Niño weather problem, which pulled

down farm output last year, will no longer be a factor this year.

Neri said the government could not yet give figures on the projected growth of the industry and services sectors, but said that these sectors were also seen to have posted decent growth figures.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the interagency body tasked with setting the government's economic policies and targets,

has revised its GDP growth target for this year from a range of 5.7 to 6.3 percent, to only 5.5 to 6.2 percent.

The reduction in the GDP growth target came with the downward adjustment in the exports growth target for the year because of the strengthening of the peso, which has adversely affected profitability of exporters.

The export sector was originally seen to grow 10 percent this year, but the target was slashed to 8 percent.

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Tel. Nos. 522-0000, 528-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2006-046(2)	1,000 bds. Jacket for Savings Passbook with Logo, 5-5/8" x 4-1/8"	P 214,500.00	LBP Funds
	9,000 bds. Jacket for Savings Signature, Card 5" x 7-1/2"	1,645,000.00	
	1,000 pcs. Checkbook Jacket, 8-6/8" x 7"	13,500.00	
	3,000 bds. Plastic Jacket for ATM Card (Green)	855,000.00	
2006-046	1,200 units Personal Computer	P 54,000,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements is scheduled on May 31, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quirino Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for ITB No. 2006-046 (2) and P6,000.00 for ITB No. 2006-045.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on May 18, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PD) May 5 & 12, 2006

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Minimum Bid Price: 354,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY

Lot Area: 282 sqm.

Banip San Juan, Bulaway

Minimum Bid Price: 80,800.00

LOT 4 - LOT ONLY

Lot Area: 2,013 sqm.

565A & 566-C, Bagac

Minimum Bid Price: 324,800.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY

Lot Area: 968 sqm.

Malate, Valenzuela

Minimum Bid Price: 15,000,000.00

CALOOCAN

RIZAL

LOT 1 - LOT ONLY

Lot Area: 2,803 sqm.

Bo. San Isidro, Rodriguez

(Montalban)

Minimum Bid Price: 177,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY

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Bo. San Jose, Rodriguez

(Montalban)

Minimum Bid Price: 110,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY

Lot Area: 1,147 sqm.

Brgy. Parang Ampatuan

Minimum Bid Price: 240,000.00

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Minimum Bid Price: 324,800.00

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Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY

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Kapangpangan, Olongapo

Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY

Lot Area: 1,573 sqm.

Bo. Apulit Subdivision, Brgy.

Kapangpangan, Olongapo

Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

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Lot Area: 1,573 sqm.

Bo. Apulit Subdivision, Brgy.

Kapangpangan, Olongapo

Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

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Lot Area: 1,573 sqm.

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Kapangpangan, Olongapo

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LOT 10 - LOT ONLY

Lot Area: 1,573 sqm.

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Kapangpangan, Olongapo

Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT ONLY

Lot Area: 1,573 sqm.

Bo. Apulit Subdivision, Brgy.

Kapangpangan, Olongapo

Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT ONLY</p

BUSINESS

US says world oil prices to stay high through '07

WASHINGTON—WORLD OIL PRICES will stay high through 2007 because of strong petroleum demand, limited surplus oil production and refining capacity and concerns about supply disruptions due to geopolitical risks in countries like Iran, the United States government's top energy forecasting agency said on Wednesday.

The Energy Information Administration said none of these "forces that contribute to current high crude oil prices will ease significantly in the near future, so our best forecast is that crude oil prices will remain elevated through 2007."

The Energy Department's analytical arm also said in its weekly review of the oil market that "strong growth in the world economy, and particularly in China and the United States, has fueled the need for more oil, thus putting upward pressure on prices."

The agency pointed out that global oil demand grew just under 1 million barrels per day (bpd) annually between 1991 and 2002, but then increased 1.5 million bpd in 2003, 2.6 million bpd in 2004 and 1.1 million bpd last year.

This year, it is forecast to rise 1.6 million bpd.

Oil prices in the United States have jumped above \$70 a barrel also due to fear among traders that the West's dispute with Iran over its restarted nuclear program could disrupt that country's oil exports, while a large part of Nigeria's oil

exports remains halted because of militant violence.

"The situation in Nigeria may continue for many months, (and) market concerns about a possible supply disruption from Iran are likely to remain through at least this year, if not into next year," the EIA said.

Low global surplus oil production capacity makes that fear worse and helps push up prices. The agency said unused output capacity around the world fell from 5.6 million bpd in 2002 to around 1 million bpd today.

"While some productive capacity has been brought online, it has been insufficient, relative to demand growth," the EIA said. "As a result, surplus capacity is extremely limited, dramatically reducing the ability to respond to any sudden surges in demand or disruptions in supply."

The ability of refineries to turn that crude into petroleum products has also become tighter, as refineries have ramped up production and operated for longer periods.

This has "reduced the system's flexibility to respond to any disruption in refinery production, either from hurricanes or other events," the EIA said.

The agency said tight US gasoline supplies could "pull up" crude oil prices, because limited surplus refining capacity makes each gallon of gasoline worth more, "increasing the value of the crude oil used to produce the refined products."

Reuters



ALL THAT GAS

Dave Gersner of New York fills his gas tank, spending \$41.50 for 12.6 gallons, in Bloomfield, NY. World oil prices will likely stay high through 2007 because of strong demand, according to a US energy forecasting agency.

Immigration seen as key to offset aging economies

WASHINGTON—FOR RICH COUNTRIES fretting about the economic effects of an aging society and a dwindling native workforce, embracing immigration would appear to be a sensible contribution to maintaining the economy's potential.

Experts say immigration alone will not solve the economic problems of aging. But the risk of suddenly choking off migrant flows may be dangerous given looming demographics.

With United Nations data showing 59 countries worldwide already not producing enough children to avoid population decline, it seems odd why many developed countries, including the United States, are looking to tighten immigration laws.

Plummeting birthrates and falling populations—other things being equal—simply reduce countries' ability to produce and consume more goods and services and eat into growth rates, foreign investment and economic clout over time.

What is more, the drag on national coffers from growing numbers of elderly citizens drawing government benefits, relative to tax-paying workers, is a well-documented headache.

So, with the world's fertility rate as a whole set to fall below replacement levels by 2045, it may even be possible there will be intense competition for migrants in the decades ahead.

"Adding population growth to an economy makes it easier for the economy to grow and immigration is big factor," said David Kelly, senior economic adviser at Putnam Investments. "One of the reasons why Japan and Europe have

yet, depending on immigration alone to bridge demographic gaps will not be enough, even if a necessary ingredient.

"Increased immigration can limit the adverse impact on living standards and government budgetary positions due to declining and aging populations, but cannot on its own resolve the problem," an OECD study from 2001 said.

The OECD report said most studies show immigration confers small net gains in terms of per capita output to the host country, but this is unevenly distributed and depends a lot on the education levels of the migrants and local populations.

The scale of immigration needed to "solve" the problems of old-age dependency would be staggering. Reuters

Bill Gates rues being world's richest man

REDMOND, WASHINGTON—Microsoft Corp.

Chair Bill Gates on Wednesday said he wished he were not the world's richest man.

"I wish I wasn't ... there is nothing good that comes out of that," said Gates, whose personal fortune has sunk by billions since last week when the software giant disappointed investors by saying new investments would crimp earnings.

The corporate leader who made Microsoft into the world's largest software maker—and who is also one of the biggest philanthropists—is seen as a man who does not like publicity.

He explained that he did not like the attention of being the world's richest.

"You get more visibility as a result of

it," he said during an interview conducted by CNBC reporter Donny Deutsch in front of a crowd of people attending a Microsoft advertising event.

The Microsoft co-founder said that the person he learned most from in the world, aside from technology colleagues, was fellow-billionaire and legendary investor Warren Buffett.

"He has this very refreshing, simple way of looking at things, so I put him on top of the list," said Gates, adding that the top lesson from Buffett was the importance of integrity.

Still, Gates joked about his plight being unequalled in wealth. Asked if he surrounded himself with financial peers, he quipped, "No, I sit alone." Reuters



Japan, China, Korea back Asia financial integration

HYDERABAD, INDIA—FINANCE MINISTERS from China, Japan and South Korea yesterday called for more financial cooperation among Asian countries and said they would look further into the idea of regional currency units.

In a joint statement, they also called for more voting rights and representation at the International Monetary Fund to reflect their economic power.

"We noted the importance of sharing our long-term vision for financial integration in the region," the statement said. "We agreed on further study of related issues, including the usefulness of regional currency units through the Asean + 3 finance ministers' process."

The ministers, who met on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Hyderabad, India, said high oil prices and rising global interest rates could pose a major risk to regional economies.

They will take part later in a meeting with finance chiefs from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean + 3).

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 29.47 points to 2,370.29 after trading between 2,339.98 and 2,372.23. This was the best finish since Aug. 4, 1999, when it ended at 2,372.05.

Volume was 4.26 billion shares worth P8.39 billion.

The composite index closed up 29.47 points at 2,370.29. The broader all-shares index advanced 20.29 points to 1,471.75.

Gainers outnumbered losers 81 to 32, with 37 stocks unchanged.

APP

sold progress in financial cooperation, but a home-grown monetary fund or a European-style common currency is decades away, at best.

"I think it's a pipe dream," said Nick Bibby, a strategist at Barclays Capital in Singapore. "We occasionally see calls for this but it never goes anywhere and I expect the same to happen this time."

Bibby said he questioned the suitability and viability of an Asian version of the euro because of widely varying levels of economic development in the region and a lack of transfer systems from areas doing well to those faring poorly.

During the ADB and Asean meetings, ministers are also likely to discuss imbalances of capital and trade flows around the globe—problems that have put selling pressure on the dollar due to the US trade and current account deficits.

Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki said there were excessive movements in the currency market.

"I will monitor them with strong interest," Tanigaki told a news conference after he met his Chinese and South Korean counterparts.

He told an ADB seminar that an overemphasis on exchange rate realignment to fix global imbalances could fuel speculation.



SOUTH Korean Finance Minister Han Duck-soo, left, Finance Minister of Japan Sadakazu Tanigaki, center, and Finance Minister of China Jin Renqing hold hands before the start of the meeting on the second day of the Asian Development Bank meeting in Hyderabad, India.

Asia shares dragged down by Wall Street

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES YESTERDAY mostly fell, dragged lower by US stocks which weakened after strong data raised interest rate concerns.

Only India beat the trend by hitting a new peak for the fourth straight session.

Oil prices dipped to \$72 a barrel, deepening a 3 percent fall a day earlier. Gold paused after a rally that lifted prices to a 25-year high. The dollar was stuck in a range after failing to gain support from the US data.

In Europe, a fresh wave of corporate earnings was expected to help shares rebound, but interest rate worries ahead of European Central Bank and the Bank of England meetings might cap volumes.

Spread betters in London were calling the FTSE 100, CAC 40, and DAX indexes between 2 and 27 points higher.

In Asia, Australian shares fell more than 1.4 percent, but South Korean stocks ended slightly higher on lower oil prices and a better-than-expected rise in Hyundai Motor Co.'s operating profit though gains were capped by a stronger won currency and US interest rate worries.

"It looks like the Fed could continue to raise interest rates," said Kim Joon-ki, an analyst at SK Securities. "If that happens, it would come amid a general rise in interest rates worldwide."

The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) gained 0.38 percent ahead of a market holiday on Friday.

In Singapore, the Straits Times index fell about 0.3 percent, but shares of Singapore Telecommunications—Southeast Asia's largest phone company—rose nearly 1.5 percent after it said it would return \$2.6 billion to investors.

Hong Kong shares were 0.15 percent lower as investors booked profits after the market touched 5-1/2-year high on Wednesday. Taiwan stocks ended up 1.42 percent at a 5-1/2-year closing high, led by asset-rich financial stocks.

Shares in Telecom Corp. of New Zealand fell nearly 9 percent after the government said on Wednesday it must open its local networks to competitors to allow other companies to offer fast Internet services.

The fall knocked more than 2.5 percent off New Zealand's benchmark NZX-50 stock index and wiped out about NZ\$1 billion off the company's market capitalization.

But there was no stopping Indian shares, which rose to a new peak on robust foreign fund flows and expectations of strong economic growth appeared to outweigh weak global markets and bouts of profit-taking.

Oil prices fell to \$72 a barrel, widening a 3-percent decline, after US data showed an unexpected rise in gasoline inventories.

US light sweet crude traded down 10 cents at \$72.18 a barrel by 0624 GMT. It slumped more than \$2 a day ago after the higher stock levels soothed concerns about gasoline supply.

The dollar stuck in a narrow range after failing to gain any lasting support from firm US data or supportive comments from Japanese officials.

The euro hovered at \$1.2630, little changed from New York's \$1.2626 close.

Reuters

PLDT ...

From page B3

The group credited PLDT for the dramatic turnaround of its business over the past three years and the significant growth in its profits and free cash flow.

The company's comprehensive financial disclosures and transparency also contributed to the company's success in the awards.

"It is indeed a great honor for us to win this award for the third straight time, especially since we are competing with the biggest and most admired telcos in the region," PLDT president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno said in a statement.

PLDT also received nominations in other categories. It was nominated for best telecom carrier in Asia while subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. was nominated for best mobile carrier in the region.

"We are especially gratified that this distinction has been conferred on PLDT in a period during which the company has taken big strides in transforming itself into a next-generation carrier," Nazareno added. "Indeed this reflects the ability of Philippine companies to excel despite the challenges in the business environment."

Telecom Asia said in a statement that the awards were the most prestigious honors program in Asian telecommunications and that the award winners were chosen on their combined financial, market and technology strengths based on financial analysis and assessments of an 18-member judging panel.

"These awards are intended to identify and reward outstanding performance in Asian telecommunications," said Robert Ferguson, managing director of Questex Asia, publisher of Telecom Asia.

Shares ... From page B3

Volume was unusually heavy with transactions including the sale of holding firm A. Soriano Corp.'s (Ansor) entire 23-percent stake in port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI).

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 29.47 points to 2,370.29 after trading between 2,339.98 and 2,372.23. This was the best finish since Aug. 4, 1999, when it ended at 2,372.05.

Volume was 4.26 billion shares worth P8.39 billion.

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Gainers outnumbered losers 81 to 32, with 37 stocks unchanged.

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REUTERS

OBITUARIES

B7

CARMEN MARIÑO PEREZ

Loving Wife & Devoted Mother

December 21, 1921 - May 2, 2006

Carmen (Mameng) lived an interesting and very full life. A former Miss Lux Philippines, international flight attendant, teacher & employee of Philippine Refining Co. (UNILEVER), she enjoyed gardening, traveling, being involved in church activities and spending time with her grandchildren overseas. She was a faithful Christian.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years Ernesto Arriola Perez; daughters Malu, Marites and Mary Ann; sons-in-law Bong Koo Lee & Dennis Scullion; grandchildren Kevin, Kenneth, Danielle & Justin; sisters Mary Giberson and Pilar Mariño; and brother-in-law Louis Giberson.

Her body will lie in state inside the Main Sanctuary of Central United Methodist Church beginning May 4, 2006 (address: 594 T.M. Kalaw St. cor. Taft Ave. Tel. 525-7590).

A memorial service co-celebrated with Kamuning First Methodist Church will be held at Central United Methodist Church on Friday May 5, 2006 at 8:00 pm.

Final necrological service will take place on May 6, 2006 at 10:00 am also at Central United Methodist Church.

Cremation services (to be attended by the immediate family) will take place after the necrological service.

Death Notice

RALPH "Mo" REBUSTILLO RAYALA

Died on April 26, 2006

His remains lie in state at the family home in Iloilo Sur, Oas, Albay. Burial will be tomorrow, May 6, 2006 at 2 p.m. after the Mass at Oas North Cemetery.

Died on May 2, 2006

Her body lies at Molave Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat. Interment will be May 6 at Manila Memorial Park.

Died on April 29, 2006

Her body lies at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Quezon City. Interment will be on May 6, 2006 at La Loma Cemetery, Manila after the 1 p.m. Mass.

The Board of Directors, Officers and Employees of



SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

extend their condolences to the family of

JOSE Y. CAMPOS

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 1, 2006

BLAS B. LABAD

of Orosieta City, Misamis Occidental
and Malibag, Davao del Sur

Peacefully joined our Creator last May 3, 2006 at the age of 82.

His wife, Pascencia Lanzar; children, Bong and Rose, Lucy, Edward and Gay, Paul, & Leo; grandchildren Kian and Derick; brothers and sisters Rosa, Tita, Dodo, Lolo and Iday; in-laws, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence at Purok 7, Upper Bagumbayan, Malibag, Davao del Sur.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 6, 2006 after the Funeral Mass at the Sta. Theresa de Avila Parish Church in Malibag, Davao del Sur at 10:00 in the morning.

JUANITA B. BAGA

passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 2, 2006 at the age of 97.

Her bereaved children, Tom and Clety, Lydia and Simeon, Nora and Herb, Lillian and Charlito, Victor and Peggy, Noe and Jewel, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Monday, May 8, 2006 at Hinlayang Pilipino, Quezon City, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

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In the ad of the Department of Trade and Industry Board of Investments re. Notice for Registration of ASTRX CORPORATION published in this paper on May 4, 2006, the ASTRX was inadvertently printed as ASTRX.

Our apologies.

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Philamlife is only financial institution in RP to receive Platinum Trusted Brand honor; collects record third straight award

Philamlife recently became the country's first and only financial institution to be named a Platinum Trusted Brand by Reader's Digest Asia in its 2006 Trusted Brands Survey. This marks the third time Philamlife is receiving the prestigious Platinum award from the international publication.

Philamlife received the highest score among all the life insurance firms, banks, and investment fund companies chosen by Philippine consumers in the survey, which asked respondents to name their favorite companies across 42 categories and rate these companies according to quality, value, strong image, innovativeness, trustworthiness, and understanding of consumer needs.

Philamlife scored more than double its nearest competitor, earning the company its record third straight Platinum award.

The Platinum Trusted Brand award is seen as rock-solid proof of the unrivalled level of trust Philamlife enjoys among consumers who participated in the Reader's Digest survey, acknowledged as one of the most exhaustive and accurate consumer research projects of this kind today.

Philamlife is the No. 1 life insurance company in the Philippines and is a member company of American International Group Inc. (AIG), the world's leading financial services organization.

BUSINESS Friday

UP food vendors adjust to times

By J. Bonaobra, E. Ferrer, C. Malaluan, J. Mirandilla, R. Rosales, C. General, C. Hagos
Contributors

THE CAMPUS AND SURROUNDING areas of the University of the Philippines Diliman create a small, but self-sufficient community with its colleges and university facilities, residential areas, banks, hospital, mall, shopping centers, pharmacy and numerous food establishments.

What is noticeable these days is the variety of restaurants, canteens and stalls mushrooming in the area indicating a

growing population and demand for all types of food.

Many students prefer to eat in the well-established and popular cafeteria inside UP but many more choose to peck at the much cheaper foods offered by various rolling stores in the campus.

According to "A taste of UP," a 2005 study conducted by students from Communication Research 165 (CR 165) classes in College of Mass Communication, there are 56 food establishments within UP.

The CR 165 had a list of the top 10 most patronized food

UP FOOD/B2-2

Coping with the oil price hike

Vendors raise prices of basic goods in 'palengke'



By L. Bedonia, V. Puno,
J. Velasco, J. Belen and W. Adilla
Contributors

LAUNDRY WOMAN TRINIDAD DE LOS SANTOS, 52, used to spend just P500 for four days worth of groceries. Today, the money is no longer enough.

"P500 is really not sufficient to buy the goods that we need at home, that's why before I go to the market, I try to double check the things that I have to prioritize," De los Santos says.

Fruit vendor Antonio Silva blames his similar woes on the oil price hikes that have increased the prices of basic goods, including the fruits he is selling.

There was a time when he recorded P3,000 in sales a day. Today, he only gets less than P1,000 because consumers are

finding it more difficult to buy his fruits.

"Every one of us is affected by this increase. As vendors, we also have no other choice but to raise the prices of our product a little higher," he says in Filipino. "The oil price hike is the devil behind all our misery."

Most vendors have increased their prices since March when crude oil prices in the world market inched up beyond \$74 a barrel, prompting local oil companies to consequently increase their prices at the pump.

In Metro Manila, several vendors of agricultural products have increased their prices by P1 to P2.

Although based on DA's recent monitoring report, only the price of pork has increased its price by P5-10 this week, while prices of other agricultural products remained stable. The same goes for manufac-

COPING/B2-2



Road Warriors Armed With Next Generation Technology

Unilever Gets PLDT-Enabled

Unilever Philippines is stepping up to the high-technology plate. The giant consumer packaged products conglomerate thinks it's high time to upgrade its sprawling local operations.

"We want to enable our most distant networks with new technology," says Maite Cabianan, Country Head of IT for Unilever. "We serve almost every part of the Philippines. PLDT Shops work is definitely more cost-efficient for our smaller remote offices."

PLDT Shops work is a responsive telco innovation that allows business owners to monitor and control remote operations in real-time. Among other things it allows managers to effectively track inventory movement as well

as up-to-date sales figures. It also allows video monitoring of their satellite offices through the use of online webcams.

In addition, Unilever employees that are continuously in the field can now connect to the Internet or their office LAN thanks to the award-winning PLDT WeRoam solution in their laptops. "We have a big distribution network in remote areas where wireless solutions can be deployed fastest. Before, the only other option was radio," Cabianan also said.

"We're broadbanding the whole country," said PLDT President and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno. "The reason (broadband) can be rolled out faster by the PLDT Group, even in

remote stations is because of the strength of Smart's 99% cellular site coverage and PLDT's self-healing digital fiber optic network that cuts through the whole archipelago."

After realizing the value of reliable cost effective mobility for their sales people, top management at Unilever decided that it was time to adopt this innovative technology. The Unilever sales force can now connect with their head office anywhere they are in the field, increasing their productivity and efficiency several times over.

"Unilever has empowered its marketing team and sales force with PLDT WeRoam. We are very delighted to have enabled their road warriors with this award-winning solution, beyond fixed or wireless voice and data services already entrusted to the

PLDT-Smart Group," said PLDT SVP and Head of the Corporate Business Group Eric R. Alberto.

According to Unilever officials, they had become aware of a number of other multinationals who are realizing the value of PLDT WeRoam. They felt that it was time that they looked into its advantages as well for their own operations.

Howard Bolton, Chairman and CEO of Unilever Philippines added that "In our constant effort to improve our customer service, we know we need to partner with other equally innovative companies like PLDT."

Unilever has made the commitment to race into the future and PLDT innovations will be with them every step of the way. Beyond offering them the latest solutions and products, PLDT puts the spirit of innovation in every

thing else including after-sales and customer support. Clearly, it's innovation in every dimension.



(Front Row) PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group Eric R. Alberto, PLDT President and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno, Unilever Chairman & CEO Howard Bolton and Unilever Country Head of IT Maite Cabianan. (Back Row) SMART Relationship Manager JB Angeles, SMART Consumer & Corporate Sales Manager Dick Perez, PLDT FVP & Corporate Business Operations Officer Cesar Enriquez, PLDT Sales Business Head Katrina Abelarde, PLDT Relationship Manager Mo. Joe-Ann Hontado, Unilever Country IT Infrastructure Manager Mike Nicolas and Unilever BT Project Manager Lito dela Cruz

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UP food vendors adjust to times

establishments which are CASAA, followed by Gloria's, Rodic's and University Food Service (at the Vinzon's Hall), Beach House, UP Cooperative Canteen, Chocolate Kiss, Aristocrat, Lutong-Bahay and Albergus.

Canteens and food establishments are the top choices of the UP staff and faculty.

The thesis states that some factors customers consider are the taste of the food, accessibility of the place, quality of customer service and affordability of the food.

Cleanliness and ambience, though important, are rank low

in the factors that affect choice.

All food establishments in UP need business permits to operate and undergo safety checks by the Business Concession Office with the help of Food Service Regulation Committee (FSRC), which holds the jurisdiction over these canteens.

But some of these establishments are in danger of being extinct as prices of commodities go up and consumers shifting to the cheaper street food, provided by small food stalls and rolling stores.

"Before, I used to have at least a P1,000 profit a day, but now, earning P500 a day would be

deeply appreciated," Mary Beth Catuli, 48, married, owner of Cherry Ann's Store and Snack Haus, says in Filipino.

Cherry Ann's is one of the carinderia stores along Magsaysay Avenue. It is an uncomfortable place when compared with the food establishments in the campus.

"Aside from this godforsaken aura, competition is very tough," Catuli added.

Aling Beth says she would like to lower her prices to attract more customers but cannot because of her other expenses such as rent and food costs.

Stalls and rolling stores, which occupy smaller spaces, pay lower rentals of about P300 a month, compared with canteens.

The number of rolling stores is now higher than the canteens in the university. The customers are mostly students who can only afford the cheaper food.

"The food here is good, it somehow help me fulfill my starving," says Ara Luna, a student.

The university canteens are mostly run by the second generation, aged 22-56 years old. They operate on an 13-hour schedule—from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Poverty was the main reason why food establishments flourished in the university. As the population in the area grew, the need for a source of livelihood increased. The food business became the easiest venture to get into. As students' and teachers' budgets also tightened, demand for cheaper food also prompted the proliferation of many food establishments in the area.

Lorena Dating, a UP CMC student, says that instead of going to the malls and spending money for fare to have an extravagant meal, she prefers to eat her meals in a university canteen.

"It is because of the law of supply and demand," Evelyn Olicino, a professor in Bicol University who teaches Sociology, said.

The law states that as the demand increases, the supply decreases, and as the supply increases, the demand will decrease.

Squatters have proliferated in the areas around the campus over the past years. Urban areas are often hard hit by poverty, with the incidence of urban poverty increasing by 13 percent to include half of the urban population. The urban poor in UP Diliman can be found specifically in Crus na Ligas—where some of the owners and crew of various canteens in UP live.

About 55 percent of the poor surveyed in the country who were in the labor force worked in an informal sector, generally as vendors, crews, or street hawkers. Other activities included service and repair work, construction, transport services, or petty production which can also be found inside the campus.

Access to finance has been limited to the canteen owners.

"People patronize canteens with established and credible name," Aling Beth adds.

But while competition is tough, many of the food establishments in the campus trudge on. Some move on to become well-established eateries that cater to generations of students.

Prices of select goods in Metro Manila

Commodities	Balara	Balintawak	Malolos	Farmers	O-mart	Prevailing market price*	Price range
FLAME							
Premium	25.00	28.00	30.00	29.00	29.00	22.00	25.00-30.00
Ordinary	24.00	23.00	22.00	25.00	22.00	22.00	22.00-25.00
COOKING OIL							
Lapad	18.00	14.00	18.00	17.00	15.00	18.00	14.00-18.00
	38.00	34.00	40.00	42.00	40.00	40.00	38.00-42.00
BATH SOAP							
Safeguard	20.00	17.00	18.00	18.00	16.75	18.00	16.75-20.00
Palmostine	17.00	16.00	18.00	16.00	16.50	17.00	16.00-18.00
DETERGENT SOAP (bar)							
Tide	28.00	24.00	19.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	19.00-28.00
	24.00	18.00	20.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00-24.00
Surf	24.00	18.00	21.00	24.00	16.00	24.00	16.00-24.00
DETERGENT SOAP (powder)							
Tide	10.00	8.00	8.50	7.00	8.50	7.00	7.00-10.00
Ariel	10.00	8.00	8.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00-10.00
Mr. Clean	7.50	7.50	7.00	6.75	7.50	7.50	6.75-7.50
Surf	7.50	6.50	7.50	8.00	7.00	7.00	6.50-8.00
TOOTHPASTE (sachet)							
Colgate	6.00	6.00	7.00	6.50	6.00	6.00	6.00-7.00
Closse-up	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.50	7.00	6.00	6.00-7.50
	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.75	5.00	4.00	4.00-5.00
SARDINES							
Ligo	13.00	11.00	12.00	12.50	12.00	12.00	11.00-13.00
Young's Town	13.00	10.50	13.00	13.50	13.00	13.00	10.50-13.50
	11.00	11.50	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00-11.50
NOODLES							
Lucky Me	6.00	5.50	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.50-6.00
	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.75	6.00	6.00	5.75-6.00
SHAMPOO (sachet)							
Sunsilk	5.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00-5.00
	5.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00-5.00
VINEGAR (pouch)							
Datu Puti	6.00	4.75	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	4.75-6.00
SOY SAUCE (pouch)							
Datu Puti	6.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00-6.00
MILK							
Bear Brand	41.00	40.00	41.00	41.00	41.00	41.00	40.00-41.00
	41.00	39.50	40.50	41.00	39.75	41.00	39.50-41.00
Coffee Mate	36.00	40.00	38.00	41.00	41.00	41.00	36.00-41.00
COFFEE							
Nescafe	35.00	33.00	36.00	36.00	35.00	35.00	33.00-36.00
FISHERY (per kilo)							
Tilapia	7.00	6.00	7.50	8.00	7.00	7.00	6.00-8.00
Sugpo	40.00	40.00	40.00	42.00	40.00	40.00	40.00-42.00
Tuligan	9.00	7.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	7.00-10.00
Bangus	10.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	8.00-10.00
	10.00	7.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	7.00-10.00
Tuyo	15.00	10.00	15.00	13.00	12.00	15.00	10.00-15.00
Tinapa	15.00	10.00	12.00	14.00	12.00	12.00	10.00-15.00
	18.00	12.00	14.00	18.00	12.00	18.00	12.00-18.00
Dilis	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	16.00	12.00	12.00-16.00
MEAT and POULTRY							
Pork	140.00	135.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	135.00-140.00
	220.00	190.00	220.00	225.00	200.00	220.00	190.00-225.00
Chicken	100.00	90.00	100.00	110.00	90.00	100.00	90.00-110.00
Chicken egg per piece	4.50	3.50	3.50	4.00	3.50	3.50	3.50-4.50
VEGETABLES							
Tomato	50.00	50.00	50.00	60.00	55.00	50.00	50.00-60.00
	100.00	90.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	90.00-100.00
Garlic	40.00	44.00	40.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	40.00-60.00
Onion	15.00	10.00	15.00	20.00	15.00	15.00	10.00-20.00
Soyote	50.00	40.00	50.00	60.00	40.00	50.00	40.00-60.00
Ampalaya	40.00	30.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	30.00-40.00
Sitaw	50.00	36.00	50.00	45.00	40.00	50.00	36.00-50.00
Carrots	60.00	40.00	50.00	50.00	35.00	50.00	35.00-60.00
Eggplant	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Kangkong	30.00	30.00	30.00	40.00	35.00	30.00	30.00-40.00
Pechay	50.00	46.00	50.00	60.00	56.00	50.00	46.00-60.00
	40.00	30.00	40.00	40.00	35.00	40.00	30.00-40.00
Ginger	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	10.00	12.00	15.00	12.00	10.00	10.00	10.00-15.00
Gabi	15.00	10.00	15.00	25.00	10.00	15.00	10.00-25.00

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

BUSINESS Friday

B2

Wherever in world, public nod needed for toll roads

By Marlene N. Ochoa
Contributor

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON—WALT, the tour guide, described that day in Seattle as a "rainy summer day." Of course, he hastened to add, it would also be rainy in Seattle in winter, spring and fall. In short, this was Seattle at any time of the year—cold, windy and raining.

But back at the Seattle Marriott Waterfront Hotel where I was attending a workshop, the cold weather was belied by the warm atmosphere. This was a gathering of industry colleagues and associates of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA). Its website says: "IBTTA is the worldwide alliance of toll operators and associated industries that provides a forum for sharing knowledge and ideas to promote and enhance toll-financed transportation services."

This particular workshop is called "Organization Management" with focus on public relations, community outreach, sponsorships, and marketing. This was the reason for my presence here.

My company, Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC), felt that a colleague and I could profit from the experiences of other tolled facilities in the world while, at the same time, sharing our own Philippine experience in gaining public acceptance for the NLEX.

In Atlanta, Georgia, the pro-



posal to convert Georgia Highway 316 into a limited access, interstate style corridor was met with resistance after the Georgia Department of Transportation decided to fund it by turning the highway into a toll road. The state Department of Transportation and the State Road and Tollway Authority put together a communications and public relations effort to bring the common folks and local constituents into the circle of debate, encouraging them to say their piece about the project in a fair and open process.

Lisa Thompson of the State Road and Tollway Authority and Vicki Gavalas of the Department of Transportation said a community awareness task force was formed with the objective of securing public buy in where key stakeholders—commuters, other

drivers, governor's office, contractors, local governments, employees, business and financial community, tourists, and media—were given plenty of opportunity to participate in the debate. "Public input was crucial to the decision making on the final project," they said. The result: Public involvement of all sectors was secured and the project gained open approval from those who mattered—ordinary people who were allowed a fair and transparent hearing.

Hearing out what the public has to say is as serious a business at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC).

Frank Kempf, assistant chief engineer of PTC, said that "early on, the commission decided that the community was one of our best assets in promoting a project." So before they even got to

the drawing table for the new Mon/Tayette Expressway, Kempf said that PTC formed a Design Advisory Team composed of 10-15 community representatives nominated by community leaders and five to six technical advisers from the PTC and its consultants.

The team considered inputs on environment and social impact as well as engineering and financial aspects. The result: An expressway that the public has a direct stake in and so call it their own.

The community is always a critical consideration in designing a new toll facility.

The following day's technical tour of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and Open Road Tolling showed the high value placed in ensuring goodwill with the community.

Both David Pope, toll systems manager of Washington State De-

partment of Transportation (WSDOT) and Claudia Cornish, media relations manager, underscored the importance of public consent in pushing forward a new project. As part of their community relations effort, a nearby park, which otherwise would have remained unnoticed, has been developed by WSDOT, providing a viewing area where one can catch a breathtaking sight of what WSDOT calls "our parallel future."

That "parallel future" refers to the SR 16-New Tacoma Narrows Bridge, a new suspension bridge, now 75 percent complete, hanging side by side with the existing 1950 Narrows Bridge. When completed in spring 2007, the project will feature two parallel suspension bridges, each carrying three lanes of traffic, and improvements to 3.4 miles of SR 16 roadway. Yes, both bridges are suspended by cables and are a wonder to behold.

An important point was made about the design of the new bridge. Cornish said that the new one was deliberately made not to look like the old one in deference to a concern by the National Historical Commission which argued that the historical value of the old bridge would diminish if duplicated. Again, Cornish emphasized that public approval was a key factor leading to the WSDOT's full agreement with the preservers of historical icons, not to copy the de-

sign of the old bridge.

At a cocktail party, discussion drifted from the technical into the social impact of a tolled facility.

Maria Sholly, director of Autostrade International of Virginia O & M Inc., said that any toll road could benefit from the perspective of connecting to the public first before any major decision is undertaken. Sholly is one of the few women in the industry who heads and manages toll road operations. Hence, she is familiar with the day to day need to connect and reach out and create bridges with the public.

The NLEX experience is convincing evidence of the crucial role stakeholders play in the successful completion and operation of a project. I told her before MNTC went into commercial operation of the NLEX in February 2005, we reached out to our different stakeholders in government, nongovernment organizations, media, and various transport groups. We listened to the different viewpoints, and whenever possible, used their suggestions as inputs to decision making.

What I got from the workshop is an impression that we, here at MNTC, have done right—and our approach has been validated by the reports and testimonials of like-minded toll road communicators around the world.

I came away confident that, in terms of ideas, we do not belong to the Third World at all.

Franchisors tie-up with franchisees



ALCOBER

THE FOOD BUSINESS IS ONE DYNAMIC INDUSTRY that entices a vast range of entrepreneurs looking to serve Filipino families who enjoy simple meals served in a homely ambience. While the more popular option is to open a full franchise for a favorite fast food or restaurant chain, some businesses are now considering the joint venture arrangement to guarantee a win-win situation for both the franchise owner and the partners.

Pancake House's CCP Complex-Harbour Square branch is an example. The branch is owned by the franchisor and a group of entrepreneurs—Benjie Alcober, Mario Cruz and Tony de Rivera. The joint venture has seen this Pancake House, opened last year, exceeding its target sales. Alcober points to the prime location, the quality and consistency delivered by the restaurant, the franchisor's expertise in management and operations and their group's business inputs as keys to the outlet's success.

"The joint venture has a lot of advantages over 100 percent franchising, among them the very strong operations management by Pancake House which we can readily utilize," says Alcober. "They know how to run their restaurant so you can definitely see the attention they provide to every detail in operations."

The three are all retirees from a big company. They decided to go into the food business three years ago. "They tasked me to oversee the operations because I'm the one with the experience in marketing, while they serve as the silent partners. Now, we have two restaurants and it's been an immensely enjoyable experience," Alcober relates.

After the success of their first restaurant franchise, the three started scouting for another food chain to handle. First on Alcober's mind was Pancake House. "They have a strong following among families who have kids who grew up with the restaurant."

Initially, Pancake House offered them a 100

percent franchise, but eventually, the franchisor expressed their interest to form a joint venture with Alcober's group for Pancake House CCP Complex-Harbour Square because of its strategic location fronting the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The outlet now attracts tourists, participants of conventions, and businessmen frequenting the vicinity of Roxas Boulevard, along with the theater people and audience of the CCP.

"We chose the joint venture to ensure success for all parties. It was very easy to process the deal with Pancake House. In two months, we were in agreement. They are very professional. In fact, they provided us conservative estimates which is important when going into investments," said Alcober.

The site was negotiated by the franchisor with Meedson Properties, the company which owns Harbour Square—the food complex where Pancake House stands along with other food establishments.

Currently, Pancake House operates 35 full franchise outlets, five joint venture outlets, and 20 company-owned stores, totaling 60 branches all over the country.

Honoring 10 Filipino achievers

TO CELEBRATE ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY, Lupel Marketing, the exclusive distributor of UNI writing instruments in the Philippines, has announced the names of the awardees for its first UNI Circle of Ten Achievers.

The awardees are: Public service, Sen. Richard Gordon, media/entertainment, Cecilia "Cheche" Lazaro; business, Splash Corporation president and CEO Dr. Rolando Hortaleza, medicine, Dr. Gregorio Pastorlida; architecture, architect Ed Calma; music, Gerard Salonga; design, Carlo Tanesco; education-academic Liza Alvarez; education-student Rouchel Briones and junior achiever, gifted child Mishka Ligot.

The awardees were chosen based on their ability to take advantage of opportunities in their chosen field or profession, set directions and effectively undertake major achievements. Their actions should have lasting impact on their industries and on the community. Each awardee must have also brought his company or organization to a position of strength and stability. Other criteria include out-

standing performance for the past three years, exemplary image, awards and recognition and socio-civic involvements.

Gordon is credited, among other things, for jumpstarting the Philippine tourism industry by instituting the "Wow Philippines" campaign during his stint as tourism secretary. He is now the chair of the Philippine National Red Cross.

Lazaro is a multi-awarded broadcaster, TV producer and host whose long-running show The Probe Team has set the standards for TV documentary.

Hortaleza created Splash Corporation, a multi-billion peso cosmetic empire, from P12,000 in 1985.

Pastorlida is a renowned doctor in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Calma was chosen as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) in the field of architecture in 2002.

Salonga started playing the piano at age 5 and has now made a name for himself as a musical director, arranger, conductor and record producer.

Taneco is one of the youngest and innovative designers the country has produced. He is a merchandise consultant for the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem).

One of his brainchild is the Figaro Coffee Company of which he is the creative director.

Alvarez is a chemistry teacher at Rizal High School who has been cited as one of the most outstanding teachers by the Department of Education, National Capital Region.

Briones is a student at the Caloocan City Science High School and is the 2005 Chemistry Quiz Bee National Champion.

Ligot won the 2005 Globe Gizmo Debate Tournament at the age of 11.

Lupel Marketing Corporation has been the exclusive distributor of the UNI Ball line of writing instruments for over 35 years. The company has an exclusive agreement with the Mitsubishi Pencil Company of Japan which has been making quality writing instruments for 120 years.

HOW SHOULD A COMPUTER MANUFACTURER provide customer service? Is there a benchmark? How should a customer support system be designed in order to meet customers' increasing and most discriminating demands?

An intrinsic aspect of the Acer Services and Support system is its "Collect, Repair, and Return" procedure, designed to care for customers' needs in the repair of their laptops, desktops, and any other Acer product in their possession.

Simply put, Acer customers only need to wait at home or the office for Acer people to arrive and "collect" the item for repair.

No need to move for Acer's technical support team to come and "repair" the item at authorized Acer Service Providers (ASPs), and "return" the product in a jiffy, in good, solid, working condition, almost like fresh from the shelves. It's fast becoming the "in" thing when it comes to customer service today, and effectively puts Acer at the forefront of this pioneering idea.

The Acer Care Service, an online customer service support system, on the other hand, has already proven itself as a vital cog in Acer's efforts in continuously improving its relationship with its valued

clients.

This multidimensional online service program is designed primarily to provide full scale technical support to Acer branch offices in all Acer territories around the world.

But what makes the cake, so to speak, is Acer's "Extended Warranty" policy for its notebooks, desktops, and laptops. From the standard 1-year warranty, Acer decided to "uplift" that standard by extending the warranty by another two years, for a three-year warranty advantage. Acer customers can now look forward to more dedicated, timely, and hassle-free repair service in the next three years, including unlimited repair requests, and national and international warranty coverage (for notebooks only).

As an added element, Acer dealers and end-users can also directly access specific programs as well, examples of which are downloading of corresponding applications, software and drivers, even service manuals, for all Acer products in the market. There's even a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) link right at the Acer Philippines website, www.acer.com.ph, where customers are provided basic knowledge about usage issues.

System that collects, repairs, returns

Fast-food firm's 65-year-old fan



NG

He then presented another red clear book filled with photos of different McDonald's branches including snap shots of him with the crew. He proudly points out one photo of himself in his car taken at McDonald's El Pueblo—his cherished souvenir as the first drive-thru customer of that branch. There are also pages filled with hotel accommodation receipts and bus, ferry and plane tickets bearing dates that coincide with his provincial visits to various McDonald's.

"It's very easy for somebody from Cebu or Davao to fax me a McDonald's receipt to add to my collection. That is why I keep these tickets and receipts because these things help vouch for my presence in that area at the time I visited McDonald's," he

explains. Ng treasures these receipts as objects of pride, much like trophies and medals displayed on living room next to the TV set. They represent his enduring love for McDonald's—the food, the people, the friendly and familiar atmosphere, and the sheer unadulterated happiness he feels each time he enters its doors that keeps him coming back for more.

"Even if McDonald's grows to a thousand branches, I will try to visit all of them. I will continue to collect McDonald's receipts as long as I'm here."

McDonald's is the world's number one quick service restaurant, now on its 25th year in the Philippines.

BUSINESS Friday

Lessons from Young Market Masters Awardees—III

JADE MANALAYSAY TULIO, VICE PRESIDENT for marketing, HBC, YMMA awardee for consumer products-retail marketing.

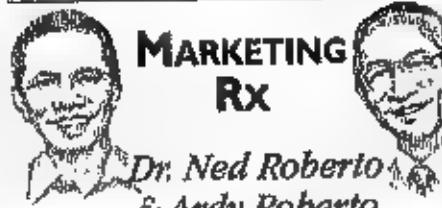
Under Jade Tuho, HBC achieved 100 percent increase in aided awareness through her brainchild, Tatak Exclusivo campaign that in turn registered 500 percent growth of HBC's Beauty Exclusivo private label product lines.

Prior to HBC, Tuho was business unit head in Pascual Laboratories and senior product manager in L'Oréal Philippines. Her marketing achievements include the successful launch of Betadine feminine wash that grew the category by 100 percent and captured 10 percent market

share from the lone market player then.

Tuho was also responsible for the remarkable re-launch of Potence Vitamin C that surpassed volume performance per tablet of its competitor by 15 percent and yielded 107 percent growth in the category.

In 2005, the Philippine Retailer's Association honored HBC with the Outstanding Retailer of the Year Award, recognizing the application of Tuho's innovative ideas in beauty retailing, such as HBC E-looks magazine, HBC's customized mini-magalog, HBC website, E-Card paperless gift cheques, 1-day lowest pricing, 1-hour 50-percent off, institutionalized media tour, launching of the SanSan



MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberto
& Ardy Roberto

Healthy and Kuay marketing campaign leading to HBC's first billion sales in 2005.

Here's Tuho's advice for young marketers:

"Start by getting exposed to many angles of the marketing discipline while you are still young—from advertising to

special events to design. Or you can start early with marketing through brand management or advertising through management trainee programs offered by companies. Whatever you choose, do not look at compensation first even if you have the best scholastic records or are remedial students. Look at the training opportunities that the position and company can offer."

"Do not keep on jumping from one job or company to another. After initial years of 'experimenting,' make up your mind on a career, decide to focus and pursue that field."

"My success secret? I always visualize everyday in my mind how I look, what I

have, what goal have I accomplished. And it happens. It transforms into reality. Of course, nothing beats hard work and believing in the value of teamwork."

The 2006 YMMA program board of judges includes Rudy Ang, dean of the John Gokongwei School of Management at the Ateneo de Manila University; Samie Lim, chairman of the Philippine Franchise Association, and Ding Salvador, former president of Johnson & Johnson ASEAN and currently managing consultant of Lamolyan Corp. (makers of Happie Toothpaste), with respected research agency, TNS Trends providing background research checks on the winners.

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Teaching teens to invest in capital market

EFFECTIVE HANDLING OF MONEY IS INTRODUCED EARLY to third year high school students of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) through their classes in Investment Management.

This pioneering high school subject introduces diversified investment options for student savings.

"We are very pleased to offer Investment Management to students as young as 15 years old to help them acquire a strong desire to save," said SISC principal Teresita Yague. "By offering students the option to invest in stock market if they choose, we are making it possible for them to put their savings into profitable use."

"They also learn to diversify their investment portfolio which is critical when you are saving for something as important as providing for the future."

SISC students' new investment options include investing, either partially or entirely, in the Philippines Stock Exchange through a reputable stock brokerage firm. They manage their investments online, including selecting the investments, and even keep track of their investment's performance on a daily basis.

In addition to the stock market, students are also given an overview of investing in the foreign exchange market, money market, and derivatives market.

"With the addition of the Investment Management Program, our students can develop a college savings plan for their future education," Yague said.

SISC is located at 1281 Tripoli Ave., Luxembourg St. For inquiries, call 820-0935.

Promoting credit responsibility

CREDIT CARDS HAVE BECOME powerful and convenient tools to manage one's finances if used responsibly. The Credit Card Association of the Philippines, now on its 25th year, remains upbeat as far as the credit card industry and consumer awareness is concerned.

According to Manuel Santiago, CCAP chair, "Empowerment and responsibility go hand in hand. We believe that for people to be able to get the full value and convenience of using a credit card, they need to be equally responsible for it."

Rolando Tancharco, CCAP president, shares that, "Credit cards are very convenient but when misused, can lead to unmanageable debt. As we promote our products and services, we also educate the consumer on the wise use of credit."

But just what is credit responsibility? Basically, it entails consumer maturity with regards to spending behavior and credit card use. A responsible cardholder borrows within one's means and pays when payment is due.

Moreover, credit responsibility also means being wary of possible fraudulent acts that can be committed against him. The public must realize that the cardholder also bears responsibility as the credit card company to protect the cardholder against theft and fraud. This is why aside from educating consumers on the advantages of maintaining good credit and providing them with security information against theft and fraud, CCAP is also working closely with the proper agencies, especially with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, for consumer protection. Thus the drive to strengthen Republic Act No. 8484 or the law against fraudulent use of credit cards to apprehend and penalize fraudsters.

CCAP's effort to promote credit responsibility has gained ground with the market now realizing the real value of owning and managing a credit card.

A GOWN from recent show of Inno Sotto, one of very few designers who can afford to present a full collection.



LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

SMS feedback: Inquirer Lite name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Why today's designers can't stage full collections

There's not much on hand so they have no choice but to make-do and improvise

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sison San Juan



In contrast, the previous generations were trained in clothes-making, whether formally or not. They learned to make patterns, cut and sew under the hawk eyes of the senior couturiers they were apprenticing with. They were raised in the rigor of clothes construction, not just design.

They could not only construct but also drape, layer and try many other techniques with fabric because they were trained to work with all kinds of fabrics, and thus knew exactly how a certain fabric would fall or "behave."

This is perhaps why the fashion show audience could only ogle in awe as it watches one draped or flowing gown after another. One rarely sees intricate, classic construction these days. For instance, in the Citem buyers' show two weeks ago where Cesar Gaupo paraded his fall collection of dressy ensembles and clothes,

there's not much on hand, to begin with. The fabric design and selection are limited—crepe, cotton, denim, silk, organza. If a designer wants to upgrade his collection and top himself, like Inno Sotto does, he has to be willing to spend more, usually his own money.

Young designers try to make up for predictable and limited fabric selection by doing all sorts of things with the fabric: tearing and shredding it, fraying it, dyeing or painting it. You name it, our young designers have done it. Therefore, you don't get surprised if the dress or pair of jeans emerges on the ramp looking more "distressed" (like the wall treatment) than the economy, because it's been "battered" in so many ingenious ways. It's smart improvisation.

That's not even counting the times they try to make clothes out of unconventional material, from rubber bands to coco husks and safety pins.

There's nothing basically wrong with this. It tests the designers' creativity and imagination. But then Filipinos are never short on creativity and imagination, certainly not these young designers.

What we're short on is discipline and structure.

The more fashion weeks and fashion shows I see featuring the emerging designers, the more I wonder: How on earth will this new breed learn how to cut, construct, sew, learn the finer art of clothes-making, and develop a sense of proportion, if they have gotten so used to improvising with fabrics? And they don't even have much chance to work with fine fabrics.

No design statement

This is why perhaps when you see today's collections, you can hardly make out the design statement—the silhouette, proportion, color, tex-

ture. What you have is visual traffic, all embellishments. The young designers are learning to embellish even before they can learn to construct clothes. They are made to deconstruct clothes, even before they can construct them. That's not fully their fault; they have scarce resources.

This is why they're stuck with tank tops, spaghetti straps, jeans, and merely decking out this stuff in varying levels of, shall we say, "eye shock." They're meant to shock, not to be worn through at least two years.

WHY TODAY'S CA

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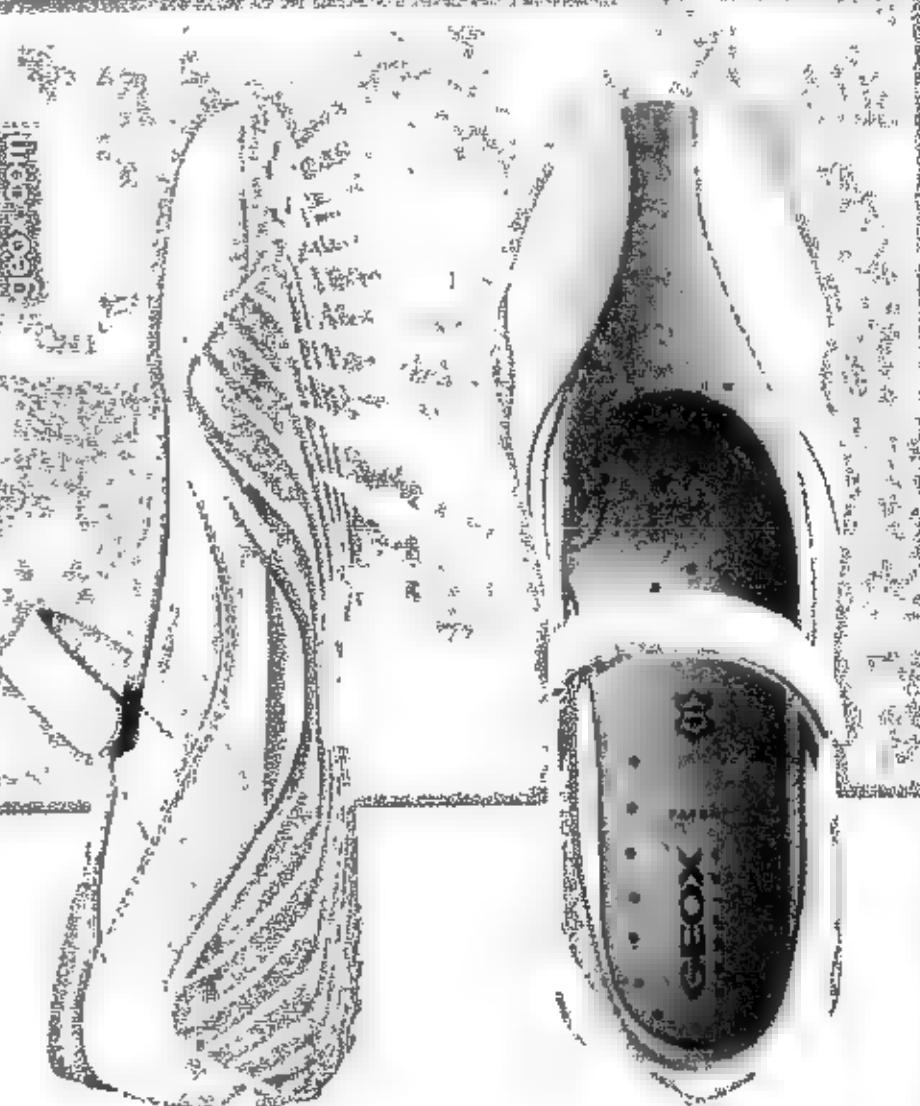
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THE CELEBRATORS. Butch Albert and Cris Louwallien A. flank close pals Geny and Lianne Bautista



JOHN Hizon with Rose and John Ramola, and Wanda Louwallien

BOBBY Joseph

ANA Louwallien B., Tammy and Vince Sitang

RALPH Joseph

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POPULAR young couple JR and Boogie Trinidad



CARLO Lopez with his lady love, Monique Albert



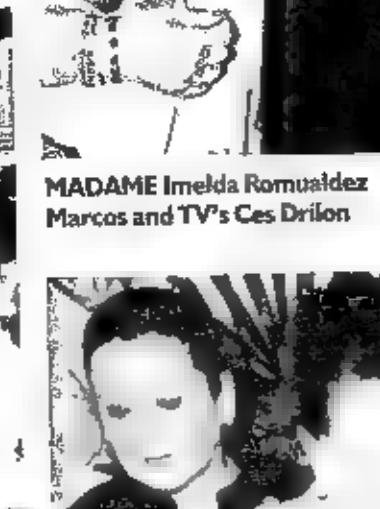
ISABEL Bela Vazquez and Ramon Esguerra



MADAME Imelda Romualdez Marcos and TV's Ces Drilon



BOEY Cruz and Helen Dee



FRANCK Provost's Baby Cruz, philanthropist Chito Madrigal Collantes and sister Ising Madrigal Vazquez



EYE-CATCHING China Cojuangco and Victor Manuel



MELANIE de Leon and Mel Tiangco

ILAS POWER COUPLE, THE BEAUTIFUL woman of style Cris Louwallien A. and husband, business magnate Butch Albert, celebrated 12 years of love and devotion, *palanggas*, at the chic Prince Albert Rotisserie of the Hotel Intercontinental.

Naturellement, the couples' closest pals and their famili arrived fashionably on time at 6:30 p.m. for cocktails, before sitting down for an excellently prepared dinner by the hotel's top chefs.

Check this out: Rock Lobster Bisque; Prince Albert's super-famous Roasted Rib-eye with Yorkshire Pudding; Braised Sea Bass scented with creamy truffle sauce and the simply amazing dessert of Green Tea Brûlée, dahlings.

The chosen invitees included Letty Torde-sillas; our pal Ralph Joseph of the popular Ralph Wines & Liquor; Carom Narty; Rina, BJ and Monique Albert, our ace photographer Alex Van Hagen; Sr. Salty Lising; Irene Razon, Philip and Beth Tan, Frances Tan; Chris Chongson; Boom and Luisita Guerrero; Baby Tingson; Mon Unson; Miguel Estrada; fun Gerry Zorilla, and John Gabriel.

After dinner, nice Pastor Gus Lising commended the couple for 12 years of togetherness, then saxophonist Vince Lajora dished out some cool jazz sounds, followed by violinist/guitarist Leo San Juan, that set the mood in the classy, cozy atmosphere of the Carlos P. Romulo room, *palanggas*.

The cutting of the eye-catching tiffany-inspired cake was the grand finale. Favors were precious notebooks made by artistic Rina Albert, delicately tied with laces and feathers. Here's to the crystal (15 years) anniversary, *palanggas*.

Effecting change
Armed with the best of intentions, a profes-

sional staff and a passion for excellence, dedicated social workers Maria Luisa Madrigal Vazquez and alabaster beauty Baby Cruz founded a venue for continued learning—the ICI Training Center (ITC), *palanggas*, on 2/F, Franck Provost Bldg., Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati.

Moi saw first-hand ITC's superbly equipped lecture halls, laboratory, cosmetic room as well as a mini library. Initially it will offer diploma courses in Cosmetology, shorter certificate courses and one-day workshops on a variety of topics from health to domestic work, with excellent, trained instructors from both Europe and Asia headed by its president, Tisha Cruz Bautista and administrative director Marga Uy Baula.

ITC courses are currently recognized and supported by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) of the Philippines.

Last month, the ICI Training Center formally opened. Naturellement, phalanthropist and book author, vivacious woman of substance Chito Madrigal Collantes, snipped the ceremonial ribbon.

The event included the blessing of the premises, an exhibit inaugurated by Imelda Romualdez Marcos, no less, and the awarding of certificates to 70 excited students who completed their courses, *palanggas*.

As the chi-chi invitees nibbled on the excellent cocktail finger food by the unbeatable La Tasca, most of them asked about the Household Management and Domestic Training Courses, as well as makeup workshops.

Well-wishers went home with tokens of appreciation—small elegant bags with semi-precious stones as handle accents, gracious gifts from such a worthy endeavor.

Check out this pioneering school, *palanggas*, through 8970383, 8953401 to 03 extension 113 and 104; or fax 8970307.

Luminosity

Renowned brand Lancôme has come out with its latest skincare product.

NeuroWhite was launched with an exhibit at the hip M Café. The first to target both environmental and emotional causes of melanin production, we were told that this product promised a totally luminous skin in just three days, and to erase stubborn spots in four weeks.

Would you believe the product was conceived *après* about 400 studies on almost 85,000 women across Asia? It was specifically researched and developed, and therefore exclusively sold, in Asia, *palanggas*!

Some of our town's hot photographers—Raymund Isaac, Pat Dy, Xander Angeles, Jo Ann Bitangco and Victor Consunji—presented their own visions of "radiant beauty," capturing some of Manila's most beautiful women on film. Their inspiration were these women's own natural beauty and flawless skin—Maciko Jacinto, a top Russian shopper; Anna Palabyab, who is doing her residency in medicine; Marta Araneta, mother of twin baby boys; gorgeous headturner Anna Cu-Unjieng, who is in high-power finance; and vibrant miss with the sunshine



ALBERT BOYS. BJ, Carlo and Marty



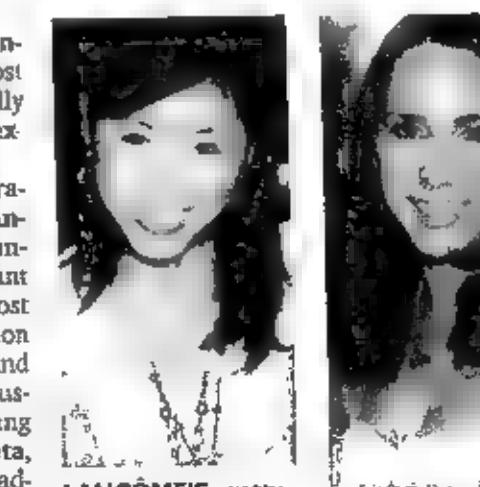
SHIELA and Rajan Gidwani, with Letty Albert

smile, Jackie Cohen-Antonio, columnist and stylist. Each of the women experienced stress yet still managed to glow! Hey, what's your secret, gals?

"The right skincare, exercise, healthy relationships, a positive outlook and spirituality," plus, I'm sure, dahlings, tons of the right attitude, *n'est-ce pas!* (as in, *di bala?*)

Asking all sorts of questions on this break through skincare were hot host, eye-catching Joey Mead, Ian Evangelista, L'Oréal's tres charmant managing director David Ennes and Luxury general manager, super nice Vicki Encarnacion, Mariel Chua, Vicki and vivacious Rose Montenegro, ETC host Sam Oh, Louie Soong, slinky Karen Grupp, and the Lancôme rah-rah team, including Sobee Duenas, Zerl Chan, Apple Morales, with chief makeup artist Abbyale Arenas-de Leon.

Rene Barbier chilled white wine and chilled Freixenet champagne kept the chic crowd real cool as they enjoyed the celebration of beauty, *palanggas*.



LANCOME'S pretty senior product manager Zerl Chan



RADIANT Marta Araneta



THE GANG. Pretty, pretty Tisha Cruz Bautista, Terri Madrigal, Alessandra M. Eduque, ChuChu Madrigal Eduque and Metro Society's Raul Manzano



WOMEN with flawless skin. Ria Romero, Celine Gabriel and Lancôme's Sabee Duenas



TV HOST
Tisha Silang
gets a
relaxing
head
massage
at the
Nestea
Green Tea
Sanctuary
in Boracay.

Sunshiny sanctuary

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY to fully relax and unwind on the heavenly beaches of Boracay?

Head off to the Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary, a haven of tranquility where you can experience spa-like ambience and the rejuvenating goodness of the new Nestea Green Tea.

Until tomorrow, Boracay revelers are guaranteed a glorious R&R experience at the Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary where they can get a 10-minute massage treatment for the hand, back or head, or simply relax and chill out at the sanctuary's lounge area where they can listen to soothing music or while away time by reading magazines.

To enjoy this one-of-a-kind Nestea Green Tea experience, Boracay beach lovers must simply purchase a Nestea Green Tea Harmony Pack which includes two 80-g packs or one 200-g pack of Nestea Green Tea powder and one Nestea Green Ice Tea RTD for only P50, available at the Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary.

The purchase also enables customers to join the raffle promo where they can win a Nestea Green Tea Harmony Kit. The kit contains the Nestea Green Tea cd (a collection of soothing rhythms), a hand massager, the Nestea Green Tea Informational Leaflet and a free Nestea Green Tea pack.

Of course, they will not go home without sampling the refreshingly healthy Nestea Green Tea, the first iced tea powdered drink in the market with all-natural green tea extracts that guarantee deep-down refreshment while safeguarding the body against serious illnesses.

Green tea contains the most powerful antioxidant epigallocatechingallate (EGCG or catechins), which pro-

tects against heart disease and cancer while keeping the body rejuvenated and relieved from stress.

The Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary will be at the following Boracay resorts: Le Soleil de Boracay Hotel (Station 2) today; and Crystal Sand Beach Resort (Station 1) on May 6.

Before conquering the beaches of Boracay, the Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary also treated mallers to a unique spa-like experience when it recently invaded top malls such as Glorietta Mall, Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Pampanga, Market! Market!, Robinsons Place Manila, Festival Mall Alabang, and SM Megamall.

CLARK'S IS A BRAND YOU CAN count on to give you everything you need from a pair of shoes: comfort, durability, fashion and an affordable price tag.

Established almost two centuries ago, C&J Clark's is now the No. 1 footwear retailer in the United Kingdom and is available worldwide (with branches located in 17 Asian countries).

This season, the ladies' line is divided into four collections: Casual, Dressy, Sports Casual and Smart. Casual is composed mainly of trendy flats in every color and style imaginable. The Hydrangea flats are in mint, black and lemon, and would go very well with this season's summer fashion forecast of minis and shorts.

The Dressy side of Clark's is all about wedges, some in nude tones and others in bright colors, such as the Stupa in fuchsia. The Sports Casual collection is for the more on-the-go woman. The shoes provide support for

delicate ankles and legs.

Clark's Smart shoes, meanwhile, are classy enough for both work and after-hours partying. Designs are in flats and dresser heels.

The men's line is divided into three collections: Casual, Everyday Casual and Smart.

The Casual collection ranges from outdoor casual to city casual. The Manos, Maskell, Marbough and Ridgeroad designs are great for men who love the roughness of the outdoors, while the Pegasus Fly, Ridgepath and

Pegasus Wing are more for the city slickers.

Everyday Casual shoes are a more laidback version of the Casual and are great for both city and outdoor wear.

The men's Smart collection is the counterpart of the women's Dressy collection. The designs can go from work to dresser occasions such as cocktails or formal dinners.

Clark's is distributed by Cinderella Marketing Corporation and is available in SM Megamall and Cinderella Glorietta 3. Visit www.clarks.co.uk



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Clark's

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back to school
goodies at
National Book Store



DONG-A



**National
Book Store**



JIM GUAD PUNZALAN

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

Why today's designers . . .

From page C1

the audience saw a master's hand with fabric and color. Gaupo showed how to cut and sew to yield volume. But it was volume that didn't drown the body. Sexiness prevailed.

Gaupo, his generation and those before them had another distinct advantage: They had occasions to parade their full collections, whether these be in Bagong Anyo or other gala collections. Until recently, women had occasions to dress up for. These days, one must dress down, not dress up. To be dressed to the hilt is to reveal your age, your old age.

Unless you're Sotto, there's hardly an occasion these days to enable a designer to stage a full collection. There are no patrons, and if there are, they are corporate patrons with their own brand direction.

The new breed of designers, therefore, is hardly trained to make a full collection. Even if they are, they don't have enough funds to stage one.

Corporate sponsors, private patrons and

other individuals of means should try funding a designer's full collection. It has an audience, since people are eager to watch fashion shows, especially a full collection. In the long run, it should pay off because it's training the young talent in fashion design, and helping young designers find their own niche in the global market.

That niche is expertly crafted, top-of-the-line clothes, so apart from the mass goods from China. These could include wedding gowns.

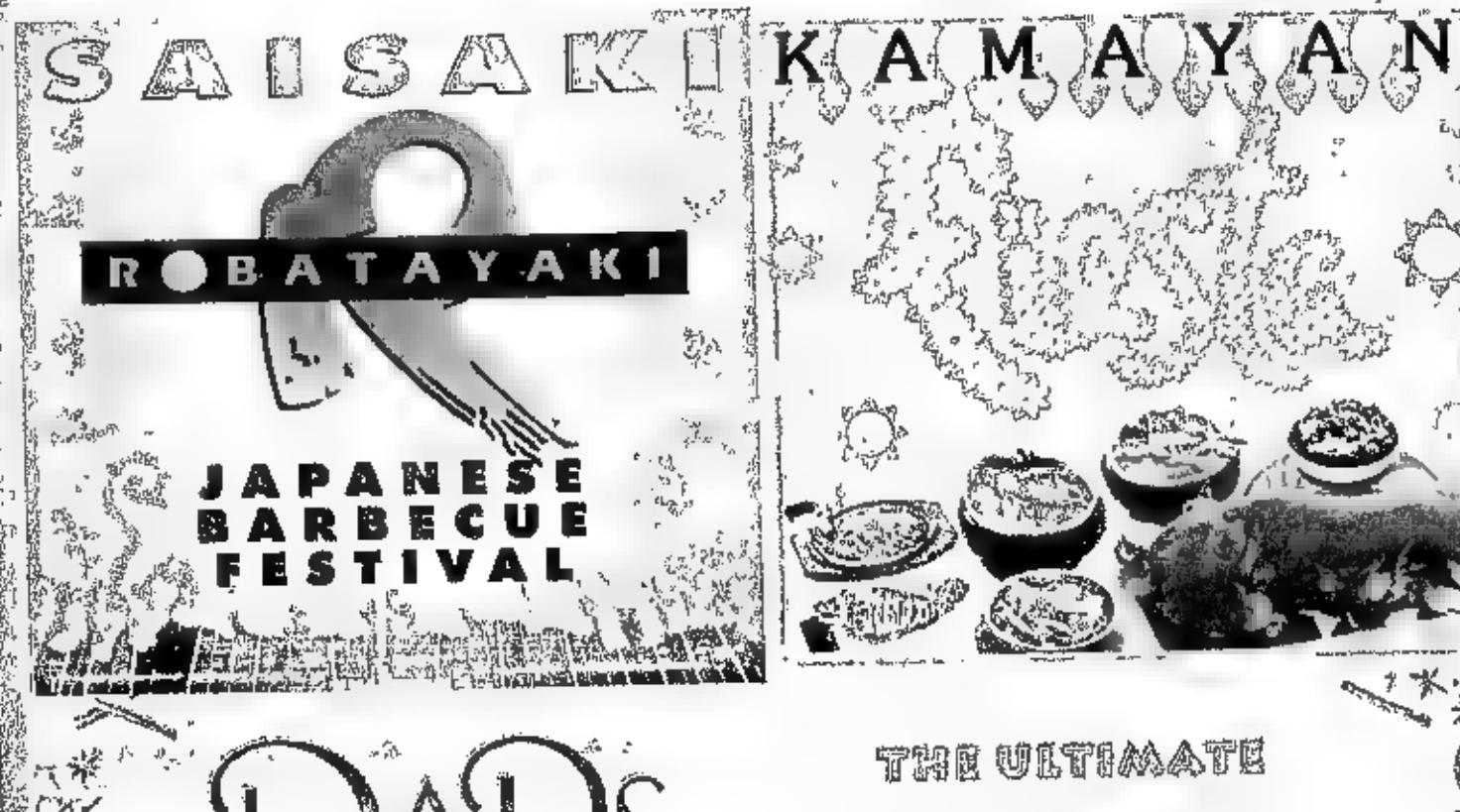
Shoplifter's trap

If there's a "girl trap" in the mall, it is Zara. A girl, or even a guy for that matter, finds it hard to leave this "it" store without buying any merchandise, even if it's only shades or a scarf. That's how good the designs are, and how reasonable the price points.

A word of warning to fashionistas who may be tempted to shoplift: Zara's security personnel are trained to spot and snare a shoplifter, no matter how chic she looks, like it did recently.

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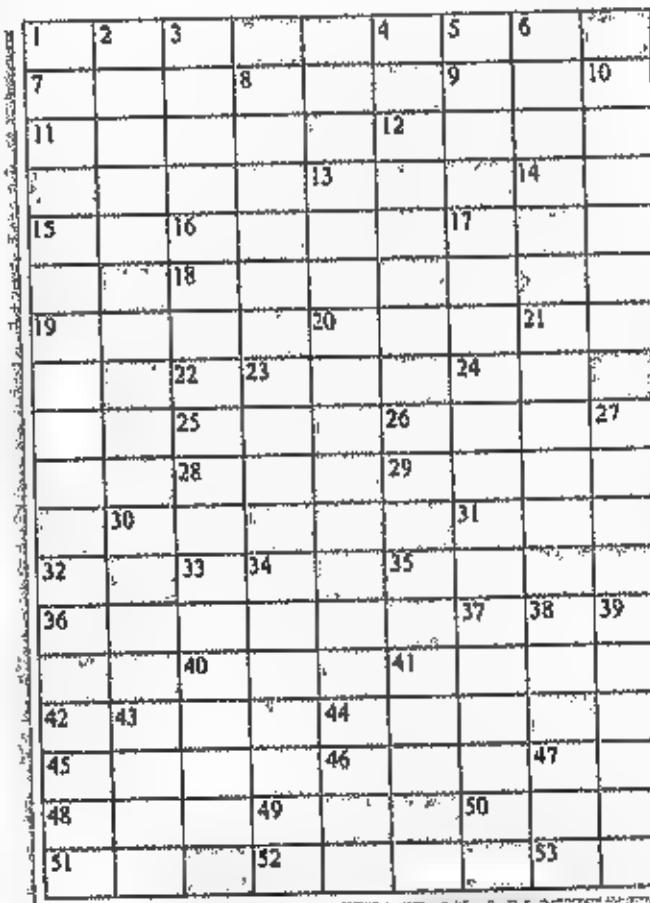
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West Avenue Tel. 413-6359 to 60 / 372-8845

Happy Mother's Day!



ACROSS

1. Filipino mom
4. Abel's mom
7. Virgin
9. Maria
11. Movie about pacific insects
14. Spouse: Mrs.
17. Tourist trophy abbr.
20. Go in
22. Muler
24. Miscreant
25. Self
26. Jose P. Rizal
28. Bocchi (abbr.)
29. Poetry, painting etc.
30. Musical source
31. Electrical unit
32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53.

50. Moana
5. The word "in" in Spanish
52. Mother's month
53. C news network

DOWN

1. Pampanga's mom
2. Pingüino mom
3. ___ deer
5. Abbr. Of variant
6. Expanded Value Added Tax
8. Alphabet ending
10. Biblical queen
13. ___ of hearts
5. G in GMA
6. John Crawford's bio
17. Pearl source
2. Mother
23. Norse myth
26. Interjection
27. Spy org.
32. Inscription
34. Period
38. Musical note
39. Japanese noon
41. Meadow
42. British age
43. Norse god
44. Afternoon
47. Long period
49. Painter's medium

Complete the puzzle. Present to claim your double treat
on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 2006!

Contributing editors:
Apples Aberin-Sadik and Jean Epperson

Editor Chelo Bánal-Formoso

For feedback, comments, and suggestions, email us at info@inforider.com.ph

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Inquirer life name/age/city/messageto:
2297 (Globe) or 2834 (Smart)

By Alex Y. Vargara

FROM THEIR TITLES alone, movies classified as "film noir" are bound to leave you with a heavy sense of fear, cynicism, disillusionment, violence and seduction even before the opening credits roll up. Since the suspense element may leave you with a bad case of indigestion, it's probably a good idea to skip the popcorn.

Indeed, rolling hills, snow-capped mountains, kind-hearted ingénues and the laughter of well-fed children are certainly the last images you'll associate with such classics as "Double Indemnity," "The Postman Always Rings Twice," "The Asphalt Jungle," "Sunset Boulevard," "Scarlet

Street," "Nightmare Alley," "Murder, My Sweet," "Female Fatale," "White Heat," "Touch of Evil," "Kiss of Death" and more recently "L.A. Confidential."

recently "L.A. Confidential." Instead, as American film historian Jack Ellis has described such films, what you get are "dark melodramas of crime and corruption, psychological dislocation and aberration, the official visual study and ex-

tion, with an artificial visual style and a preoccupation with disordered psyches."

The sunny onscreen personas of Julie Andrews, Doris Day, Audrey Hepburn, James Stewart, Gregory Peck and Gene Kelly would have stuck out like sore thumbs in

With vintage settings, stark colors and enigmatic gestures, this photo shoot pays tribute to that glorious genre called film noir.

Double Indemnity

On Peter: Plaid suit with pink floral shirt by M Barrette. **On Henrique:** Black/White double-breasted jacket and pants by Anthony Necem for SM Department Store, inner shirt from Debenhams, watch from Kenneth Cole at 1 Time Studio, hats from TopMan.



LEVI'S original clothing, including 501 limited-edition miniskirt for women and 501 limited-edition jeans for men



EXPRESS yourself [hey, hey]

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION IS DEFINITELY A means of expressing yourself and your innermost thoughts.

Teenagers have been known to don all sorts of articles of clothing as a form of rebellion against over-protective parents. In high school, I used to wear leather and chains for a bit of shock factor. And now, my teenage daughter paints her nails black for a Goth feel and wears micro minis that make her dad's heart palpitate with worry.

Activists have worn statement tees that reflect less-than-ideal political times. Remember those "Ninoy" yellow shirts and the more recent black tops worn by the likes of Dinky Suman and company?

In any case, proverbial fashionistas are also

To those who understand that fashion can be a means of communication, a way of getting your message across, I say go ahead and make a statement!



Latching on to the dressing-as-personal-statement craze, Levi's latest salvo includes empowering and thought-provoking taglines such as "I Am Not My Father's Second Chance," "You Like To Give Advice, I Like To Ignore It," and "You'll Never Really Know Me Until You Know What Turns Me On."

To complement its Stay True campaign and

LEVI'S 501 limited-edition jean wear: capri jeans and t-shirt for women



LEVI'S original clothing, including 501 limited-edition capris for women and 501 limited-edition jeans and shirt for men

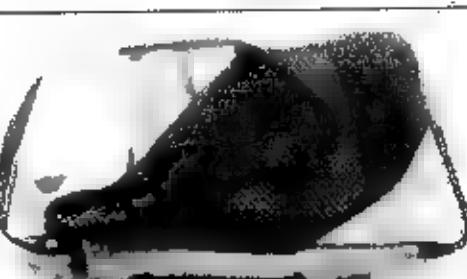
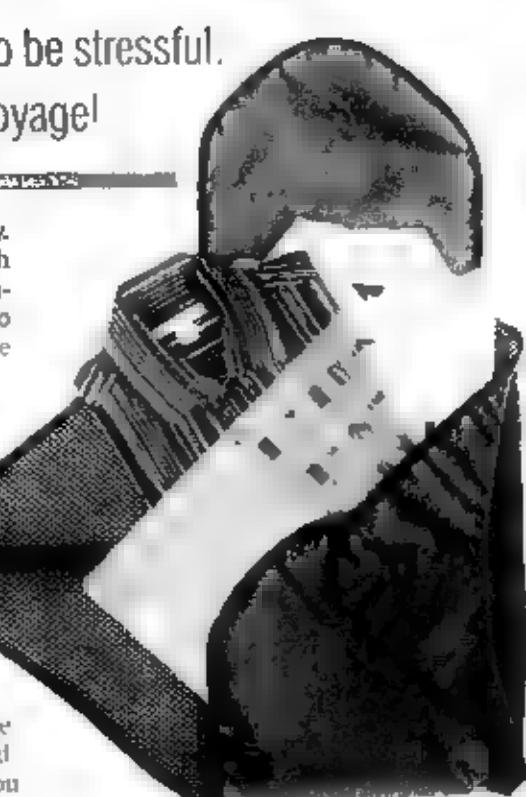
to mark 501 day, the jeans brand, which has been in existence for more than 130 years, has also customized the iconic 501 jeans. True-blue fans will be happy to note that there are limited-edition jeans with genuine leather patches on the back waist, similar to what was used on the 501 jeans before the 1960s. For a further touch of exclusivity, a serial number handwritten in waterproof ink runs along the inside of the waistband.

Some people say fashion is just fashion and nothing else. Well, for the most part, it's really just something to enjoy.

But ultimately, it should make you feel better about yourself. And to those who understand that it can also be a means of communication, a way of getting your message across, I say go ahead and make a statement.

Email the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

TO CELEBRATE INDIVIDUALITY, LEVI'S COMMEMORATES 501 DAY WITH A TWO-DAY CONCERT SERIES ON MAY 5-6. ON MAY 5, LIVE AT THE FORT PLAZA WITH UP DHARMA DOWN, IMAGO, BOYCUMIND, PUPIL, AND JRBANDUB. AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN DAVAO, HEAD TO THE VENUE AND ROCK WITH TABULARASA, MACKINA, GO LARRY GO, AND SUGARFREE. ON MAY 6, LEVI'S BRINGS FASPATCH, POWERSPOONZ, SMOOTH FRICTION, SHEILA AND THE INSECTS, AND PUPP, AT OFFROADS CEBU, WHILE SM BAGUIO COMES ALIVE WITH MENAYA AND SPONGECOLA.



TIP NO. 2 Roll it. The argument usually is that your clothes get less wrinkled when you roll them, though the "folders" say otherwise. In any case, rolling eats up less space, so that should tip the scale in its favor.



TIP NO. 3 Leak-proof. Pack anything that might leak or break in a small plastic bag (zip lock) or a sturdier plastic container (better yet, zip lock then a plastic container). Make sure your bottles are not completely full, since leaving some air space in the container may help with air-pressure change.

Travelin' man

Preparing for a trip does not have to be stressful. Remember, planning is key. Bon voyage!

Text by Gem Padilla
Contributor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

SOCKS! SHOES! Toiletries! Clothes! Hair dryer! Golf clubs! Medicine cabinet! Kitchen sink! (Okay, that's a bit too much.)

Packing at the last minute is a disaster waiting to happen, with you ending up dumping everything into your luggage, squeezing them in and hoping they fit.

It doesn't take a PhD to pack properly for a trip. And before you pooh-pooh the idea, think of how much better you'll feel not having to worry whether you packed your medication or that blue shirt that goes with your favorite shoes just before you get on the plane.

As with almost anything, packing well gets easier with practice. Here are a few things you should remember:

- Make a travel checklist. It curbs the tendency to overpack, forget or double certain items.
- Bag the right bag. Choose a bag size



TIP NO. 1 Think small. Use small containers of shampoo, lotion, etc. for your toiletry kit. No need to lug around a big tube of toothpaste if you're only going away for a week.

that corresponds with the length of your stay. Like Goldilocks, it has to be just right. Both overpacking and underpacking causes wrinkling. Underpacking allows the clothes to move around and overpacking squishes the clothes. Remember: pack tight and light.

• Think modular, aka packing cubes. This is the latest development in packing technology. Basically, this means packing your clothes in smaller bags or modules that can easily be rearranged and interchanged inside your main bag.

This provides an efficient way to get neat and organized and remain so as you travel. No more rummaging!

• Pack in order. As much as possible arrange the contents of your bag according to order of use, with the items you need to use soonest packed last. If you can't, isn't it great you're using those cubes?

• Don't skimp on the essentials. When getting your travel gear together, high price tags do not necessarily mean high quality, but the cheapies are the ones to watch out for. It would be tragic if your kits and luggage get to the end of the road just when you've begun to hit it. Take note of small things like zippers and such (they usually end up causing the biggest headaches or holes in your pocket

when you're forced to buy impromptu replacements).

Check out our featured brand, Nomad Adventure Gear. This locally produced brand's Go-Pack line includes garment cubes in three sizes, folders with folding guides for hassle-free folding and packing, and a wide assortment of kits for travel and sports. Limited styles available in Make Room. Call 0917-8953279 or visit www.proprius-ph.com

**Femme Fatale**

(From left) On Peter: White jacket with floral shirt and pants by M. Barretto. On Teresa: Strap long gown with strips of georgette stitched on tulle over jacquard polyester fabric by Julius Tarog; plaid hat with crinoline ribbons by Mich Dulce; gold watch from Fossil at L. Time Studio, sheer from Label at XY Shop. On Henrique: Sheer fabric linen peak lapel jacket and pants by Anthony Nocom for SM Department Store, inner shirt from Dabakhine

From page D1

were dark, earthy types led by the likes of Rita Hayworth, Barbara Stanwyck, Gloria Swanson, William Holden, Orson Welles and Humphrey Bogart.

Noir's protagonists are almost always cynical, vulnerable and insecure losers who are doomed and trapped, yet seek to find a way out of a tortuous labyrinth of unpleasants, violence and evil. So try as they might, not

even the best directors and stylists would have been able to transform Hepburn and company into such shaded types.

"His fate is often sealed by his dark passion and the treachery of a femme fatale," wrote Ellis. "The characters are antisocial in their greed and selfishness, driven to betrayal, violence and crime. The world they inhabit is a dark one, literally and morally."

**Phantom Lady**

Tank Vietnamese silk gown with art Deco tulle top with gold details by Jun Escario; gold shawl made of jacquard polyester fabric by Julius Tarog; small crumpled hat by Mich Dulce; gold shoes from Nine West

Night scenes

As far as backdrops went, these films (which had their heyday during the 1940s and 1950s) employed mostly night scenes, smoky furnished, dimly lit and rain-washed streets in big cities. The latter scene, however, should never be confused with "Singing in the Rain."

"The screens are filled with swirling cigarette smoke (back when no 'no smoking' signs existed), glaring lights and harsh shadows," said Ellis. "Through oblique camera angles and tension in the editing, a jungle atmosphere is created with predators stalking prey and danger lurking in the shadows, intermittently revealed by flashing electric signs."

With film noir as our inspiration, *Inquire Lifestyle* features a photo shoot that pays tribute to this moribund tension-filled genre. The fashion and styling (full, red lips and big, curly tresses) are of the period, as

are the characters (enigmatic stints and sweeping gestures) and the storyline: two-timing tease causes the jealous husband and the reckless lover to come to blows.

Even the location, shot within the Art Deco confines of the Miramar Hotel on Roxas Boulevard, harks back to a mysterious and bygone era. To keep the mood as pronounced as possible, we drained the colors out of the clothes by limiting the shades to black and white (we related fashion tip).

The underlying tension and contrast are kept palpable via vivid colors found on certain objects and body parts such as a vintage lif, certain jewelry pieces and the femme fatale's scarlet mouth, which, in the final analysis, seems to be ordering her lover, without moving a lip, to "kiss me deadly."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquire.com.ph

Kiss Me Deadly

On Peter: Jacket, striped shirt and pants by M. Barretto. On Teresa: '50s-inspired sequined dress by Brian Leyva; wristbag from Topman. On Henrique (party hidden): Black-and-white double-breasted jacket and pants by Anthony Nocom for SM, hat from Topman

Black and white heat

THE BLACK AND WHITE look makes for a dramatic contrast, but don't take it too seriously. Otherwise, you'd end up looking like a domino.

"If you feel like wearing black and white then go for it," says fashion designer Junus Tarog. "But if you find yourself surrounded by dominos and you're mistaken for one, then you most likely overdid it."

Instead of going for balance, says fellow designer Brian Leyva, aim for harmony and contrast. Your outfit should either be predominantly black or white. In other words, go for a ratio of 70:30 and never 50:50.

"The accessories' colors will determine what occasion the black and white dress is appropriate for," says Leyva. "Rather than limit your accessories to black and white, you can wear pieces in strong colors such as magenta, violet, emerald

green, topaz and ruby."

Unless it's a theme party, says designer Jun Escario, there's no need to wear matching black and white pieces—down to the spectator shoes for women, or the white hanky on the chest for men.

"Such a combination can either make or break an outfit," Escario adds. "If you go for bold geometric prints in black and white, you better make sure that the outfit is properly cut and fits snugly on the body. Otherwise, a dress with a loose bodice can overpower the wearer's figure."

Black-and-white sleeveless tops and cocktail dresses can easily be worn to parties with nude, gold or silver sandals, says Escario. Pin-stripe tops also look great with a pair of jeans or slim pants.

Men should skip the fedora hat, too, says men's wear designer Anthony Nocom. Unless you

want to look like a character straight out of those gangster movies, leave the lapel free of any large carnation as well.

"It's never inappropriate for a banker or businessman to wear a black and white pinstripe suit," says Nocom, "as long as it's properly tailored and careful attention was given to fit and materials."

Wearing black stockings with white shoes is a big no-no, Nocom cautions. Any woman who insists on combining the two items should have her head examined. Wearing a black-and-white belt with a black-and-white belt is the fashion equivalent of a broken record.

M. Barretto, men's wear designer of Folded & Hung, believes it's a lot easier to get away with either an all-black or all-white outfit. But if you insist on combining the two, you better carry them with plenty of attitude.

"Black suggests elegance, authority and power," says Barretto. "So it's best to go for black during formal occasions and high-level business meetings. When worn with white, black takes on a different meaning as it conveys neatness, simplicity and versatility."

Being non-colors, he adds, the black-and-white combination takes on a new twist with the right accessories. Fashion-forward men can add some spunk to their outfits with a colorful hat or tie.

"A black and white outfit is like an empty canvas waiting for that splash of color," he says. "Anything goes."

Whether you're a man or a woman, one rule of thumb applies: It's best not to think in black and white when you go for such a dramatic combination.

Alex Y. Vergara

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CLINIQUE



Drama in a minor key

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Verina

WHEN A FASHION designer is best known for his proclivity for theatrical designs, it's only prudent to take with a grain of salt his assertion that the collection he's about to show is "all wearable."

Which is exactly what we did when Frederick Peralta told us that a few days before he presented his 30-piece bridal collection at Philippine Fashion Week 2006.

In fairness to Peralta, he made good with his promise, even as we feared he'd prove us

right when his first model, veteran Marina Benipayo, came out half concealed in a fan of plumes. She was wearing a halter-neck column with a satin train attached to the Empire waist. The bodice and skirt were heavily sequined and beaded, but were nevertheless easy and wearable.

Peralta's inspirations for his

right when his first model, veteran Marina Benipayo, came out half concealed in a fan of plumes. She was wearing a halter-neck column with a satin train attached to the Empire waist. The bodice and skirt were heavily sequined and beaded, but were nevertheless easy and wearable.

Peralta's inspirations for his

20 bridal dresses run the gamut from the kimono, the Maria Clara and the Victorian era to the tried and tested bustier-cum-ball skirt.

He used textured fabrics for otherwise simple columns or combined them with satins. A two-piece dress with kimono sleeves was made entirely of heavy lace, tied with a satin sash. He used the same materials for a halter dress with a big bow at the neck and waist.

For the conservative bride, he had a cream scallop-hemmed dress with a high-collared Maria Clara bolero. Another was a ruffle-edged three-quarter-sleeved dress with a gathered skirt. Two serpentine gowns had minimal embellishments on the bodices, but with big ruffled hems. No new ideas here, but Peralta had an appreciative audience.

Peralta sent out Joann Bitagol in a high-collared ruffled Victorian piece, accented with a bow of black-and-white stripes and polka dots and red satin around the neck and cuffs. Pity the bride who'll wear that in the sweltering Manila weather.

Of course, even as the designer's clothes were, by and large, wearable, and his propensity for excessive embellishment decid-

edly tempered, it wouldn't be a Peralta show without some doses of his signature dramatics.

One was a big tulle skirt accented with plumes with a peek-a-boo top of sewn-together floral appliqués. It had a feather headpiece.

Ria Bolivar wore lace-up black thigh-high boots with her black satin-belted dress, and had an entourage of three little girls in black dresses. Another model was dressed like a forest nymph with volumes of diaphanous fabric asymmetrically layered from the left shoulder down to the skirt. A serpentine dress was of a multicolor, floral-print fabric, with a hem of layered violet-and-lilac tulle and sky-blue veil.

In an apparent Burns-and-Jack hangover, Peralta also sent down two sets of groom-and-groom couples on the runway. Not quite original, though the audience liked it, even as the hapless male models seemed awkward, stiff and unenthusiastic for the 15-30 seconds they walked down the ramp. Couldn't they have hammed it? After all, modeling is part acting.

Maybe next time Peralta should hire real actors.

Let's talk about teens and money.



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FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

Contributing Editor Ria Francisco-Prieto

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ED

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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Before you find the right man
you have to kiss a lot of frogs.
Same with cosmetics



Ria Francisco-
Prieto

AS SOON AS I GET UP EVERY morning, I am reminded it's summer. I wake up because the air-conditioner can't seem to beat the heat, though I still opt to have breakfast in the room because I know it's warmer if I step out.

I don't even have to use hot water when I shower these days, because water during summer is always warm. The worst is when I step out of the shower. I start to sweat and feel like I need to bathe again.

Now I understand why some people have air-con in their restrooms. Come to think of it, I probably should add that to my never-ending wish list. The thought of it makes me happy.

I think that like Christmas, summer is mainly for kids. I recently went to the club where I now try to swim and it was full of energy. Little

people (and I mean kids) learning how to swim, some just running around playing with their friends and others even trying to fly kites. I remembered being a kid and loving summer. I figured we adults should at least treat ourselves with a month's break once a year.

Why should kids be the only ones allowed to have fun and not have to think of anything for a whole month? Besides, we adults do have some paid leaves we are also entitled to.

Now I know what I'm going to do tomorrow. I will march to the human resources department and educate myself on how much leaves I can take—paid, of course. Since if I don't have cash to spare for my break, that won't be fun, either.

Speaking of cash, a lot of people are feeling the beauty cash drain. I

HOT/EZ



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Beauty Shoot Out: On the beach, instead of spraying on fragrance that could have a chemical reaction when exposed to the sun, I slather on my fav body oil with a light scent. The slick glow can enhance your tan, too.—Myrza Sison (Marie Claire magazine editor in chief)

Hot beauty booty

From page E1

am lucky I get to sample a lot of free stuff so I don't really spend as much for beauty products than the average girl. Don't worry, though, I'm sure most of you are earning more than I do. So everything's quits.

Sometimes, though, the products I get I really don't get to write about mainly because when I test them, I find that some don't deliver on what they promise. Most of the products I get I give to my friends, and they're the ones who road-test my beauty loot for me.

Truth is, it takes time to find the product that feels like it was made just for you. My analogy is, before you find the right man you have to kiss a lot of frogs. Same with beauty products.

So when you find one, you better pray they don't phase it out (like my love affair with The Body Shop's Dew Berry perfume oil). I love checking out counters, though, and discovering old and new things. I like what I do because I feel like a detective, trying to find the best that is out there.

Best buys

Marie Claire Philippines recently held its first-ever Prix d'Excellence de la Beaute Awards Night in Le Souffle in the Rockwell club. I felt like it was the Grammy awards for beauty products.

The citations are given yearly to the best beauty products in the world. This year, an international

panel of beauty professionals chose eight products, while the Manila panel chose one. The eight were: Liquid Bronze by Clarins, Rouge Pure Shine by Yves Saint Laurent, KissKiss by Guerlain, Sensitive by Nivea Visage, Plateneum by Lancôme, Dream Matte Mousse by Maybelline, Volume Shocking by L'Oréal Paris, and Eluage by Avene.

The Philippine jury, made up of journalists and beauty aesthetics and cosmetology professionals, included makeup artist Lala Flores, Philippine Board of Diplomatic and Philippine Dermatological Society fellow Maria Lourdes Anna Nebriada, Cosmopolitan beauty editor Mariel Chua, Preview beauty editor Agoo Bengzon, Good Housekeeping fashion and beauty editor Myra Puyat-Santiago and Marie Claire beauty, health and fitness editor Marie Calica.

Their choice was Bobbi Brown's Summer Brick Compact.

I love it when people make the search for the best easier for every beauty consumer, and this award did just that. Of course what the experts recommend will not always be the right one for you because we all have different skin types and preferences, but you now have an idea what you should check out in counters.

My day is set for tomorrow. First, a visit to the HR department, then I will get myself a copy of the May issue of Marie Claire to find out more about the products, then go to the mall to try them all. Now, that's fun!



MARIE Claire beauty, health and fitness editor Marie Calica and Marie Claire editor in chief Myra Sison, in Michi Calica creations

MANY PEOPLE WANT THE instant and dramatic results of liposuction but without its invasive nature.

They will be thrilled to know that there is another way, and this one without the need for drastic dieting and exercise. What it all boils down to, really, is whether you have the budget for it. The program is effective but it carries a big price tag.

I'm sure a lot of you have heard of Marie France's weight-loss treatment and have been curious to try it. I did it for you!

First, I had to go through consultation and measurements. I went there the week before my period, which meant I was carrying my usual three pounds of excess water weight. I was still in the low middle range weight-wise, but my aim was to be on the low side, which would be eight to 11 pounds less.

Marie France's aim for me was more along the lines of inch loss and sculpting, because my problem areas were the lower abdominals (puison), hips, buttocks and upper thighs.

I was told to come back every other day or three times a week, except for the week of my period.

My program

Step 1: Endermologie, 25 minutes. You will be asked to strip down to your undies, and then outfitted in a body stocking. The rolling and pinching motion of the accompanying machine serves to break down the fat located in different skin layers and reduce water retention, thus resulting to spot reducing and inch loss.

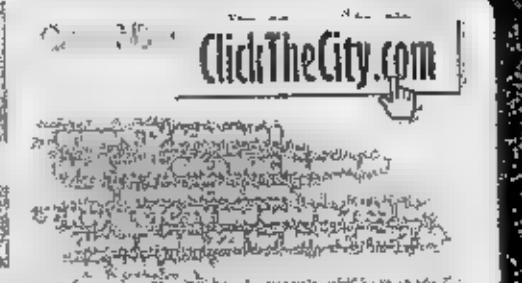
Most clients start at Level 4 from a scale of 1-9, but I requested for 5 right away. On minor problem areas like my arms, upper abdominals, legs and waist, there was little to no discomfort. However, when the attendant reached my lower hips and buttocks, it felt like a hundred tiny cannibals were pinching pieces off me.

Apparently, the water retention and excess fat make the process uncomfortable, that's why overweight people can only take Level 4 for a start.

Results: The area that responded the fastest to the treatment was my upper body. I loved the fact that my bra-line rolls were gone in three sessions. My upper arms became fat-free and my abdominals were flattened out. The unwanted bumps on my hips were also smoothed out, leaving only a perfect curve.

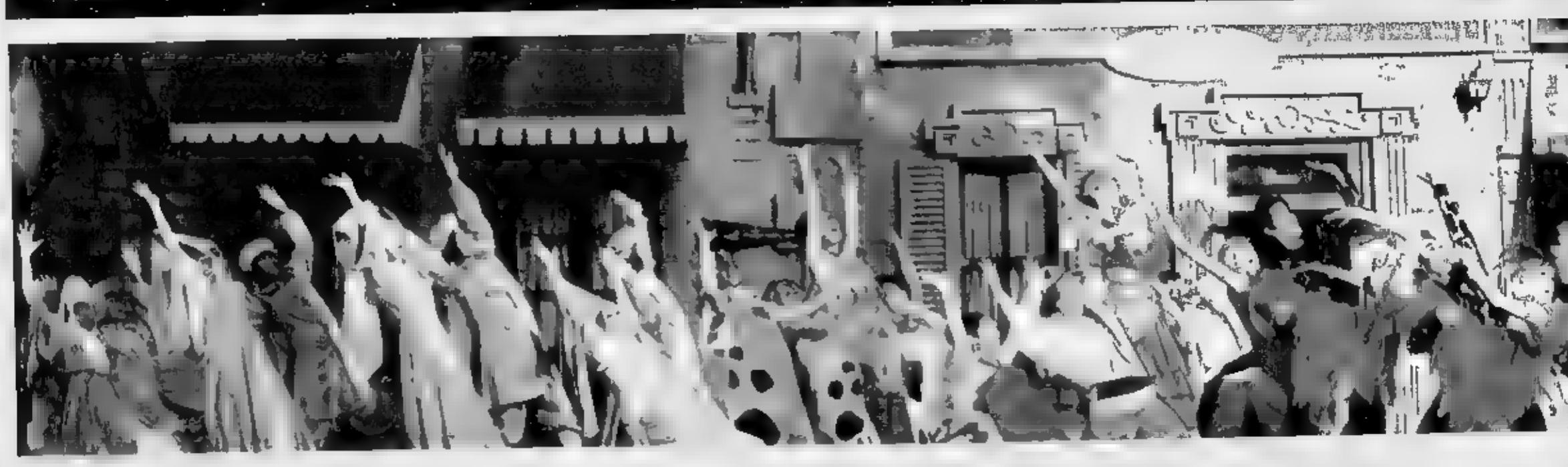
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| ABC 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN 2 | Kapamilya Cinema | When Angels Attack | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AGH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Chionex | The Disney Junior Movie (2:30PM) | Princesses Style | Wool Head | Wool Spod | Long Haing Line | Poster | Entertainment | Entertainment | Entertainment | World News Asia | World News Asia | World News Asia | World News Asia | World News Asia | World News Asia | World News Asia | World News Asia | World News Asia | World News Asia | |
| Chin | International Surface | Line & Other | 2010 | Mickey Mouse and Friends | Lil & Stash | Madie Mystery | Tinley Spies | Star Possible | Mr. Bean: The Animated Series | They're So Bright, That's So Funny | Wonderful World of Disney | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| Disney Channel | Mr. Bean: The Animated Series | Tinley Spies | Ad. Model/Unstoppable Party | Mickey Mouse and Friends | Lil & Stash | Madie Mystery | Tinley Spies | Star Possible | Mr. Bean: The Animated Series | They're So Bright, That's So Funny | Wonderful World of Disney | Entertainment | Entertainment |
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| ETC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ETC 2nd Avenue | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EWTH | The Good Code: The Natural Law | Armenia: Dream 3 Stronger | Change of Heart | Elmabat | Bed Date | Fit's Wheel | 1: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| For News | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OMA 7 | Appleship Man | How to Forever Mend Your Daughter's N | Super White Super Love | Saijels | Super White Super Love | Water Days | 2: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| Hallmark Channel | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HBO | A Song for You (2:30PM) | Armenia: Dream 3 Stronger | Change of Heart | Elmabat | Bed Date | Fit's Wheel | 3: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| Hero TV | Yo! G-Dub | Yakult Japan | Mr. Akiro | Mr. Akiro | Smart Dancer | Combat V | 4: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| IBC 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| JackTV | The Daily Show with Jon Stewart | The Job Show | David Letterman | Wolfgang Puck | Street Dancer | Inters By Design | 5: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| Lifestyle Network | Country Style | David Letterman | Wolfgang Puck | Street Dancer | Inters By Design | Design Style | 6: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| MTV Philippines | Boring Period | My MTV | My MTV | My MTV | My MTV | My MTV | 7: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| MXN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MEN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nichidion | Chit Chat | Hey Arnold | Smart Dancer | Smart Dancer | Smart Dancer | Smart Dancer | 8: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| PBO | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| On | How to Cook Anything | Zenith | Katoto Star | MUS (My Music Station) | Global Weather | Entertainment | 9: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| RFN 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GEN 21 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar Sports | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sports Plus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Star Movies | The Good Life | Shel Horowitz | Open Highlights | World's Greatest Auto Shows | Entertainment | Entertainment | 10: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| Star World | 8 Series Rule/ Development | The Bold & the Beautiful | Medieval Rider | General Hospital | Entertainment | Entertainment | 11: Servi | Dr. Phil | Antibiotic | The Tea Room | Jean of Aranda | American Idol | Entertainment | Entertainment |
| Studio 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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MAKEOVER
911

Kinny Salas



Get the body you want while relaxing with Marie France's Fat Mobilization System and related weight-loss treatments

Step 2. Physique inch-loss treatment, 20 minutes. This was my all-time favorite treatment. You lie down on a bed, and pads with cables are strapped to your problem areas. ElectrocURRENTS are then applied to these areas. There is no pain at all, but you may feel weird that your muscles are twitching!

This short treatment is said to be equivalent to doing 225 sit-ups or abdominal work, squats, lunges and all-around arm exercises simultaneously. There is no way I can log that many hours in the gym, so it would literally take years for me to get these results if done the normal way.

I told my attendant to increase the frequency because this treatment was where I could see im-

stant results. My buttocks were raised at least an inch within six sessions, and my thighs became firmer and more compact.

The last treatment on my program was Marie France's trademark cold wrap, aka Fat Mobilization System. Stretchy bandages soaked in a solution are wrapped around your body. The sensation is like being encased in wintergreen toothpaste splashed with ice cold water. This 25-minute treatment is a guaranteed 2,000-calorie burn, so the discomfort is worth it. Bring an iPod or mp3 player to while away the time.

Results: My clothes were looser after every treatment, and I noticed that whenever I ate afterwards, I burned the calories right away. In fact, the calorie burn continues about two hours after the wrap.

I could also see the muscle definition on my thighs, arms and buttocks. And I had a flat-free tummy.

Chosen areas

On the whole, the entire program will make you lose pounds and inches on chosen areas. Everything shrinks but the breast area.

My aesthetician/therapist was Lally, who has a great bedside manner and shows concern for her clients by asking every now and then if there is any pain. She also explains the purpose of every procedure, so one is motivated to come back and even increase the discomfort tolerance for a more effective treatment.

Call Marie France at 8161262 or 8152052. Make sure you inquire about the prices first before committing to a program. Visit www.mariefrance.com.ph

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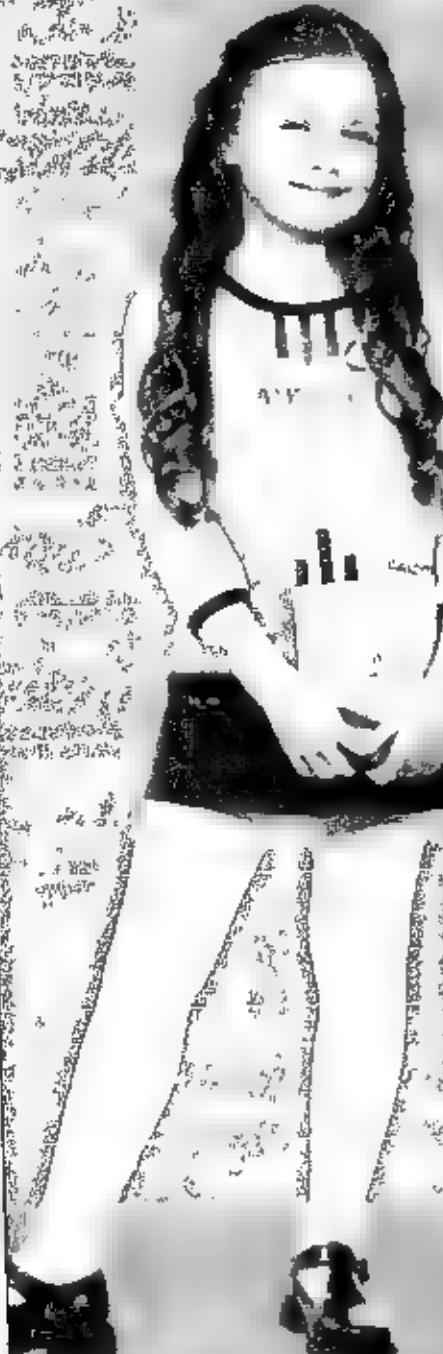
mojofly concert
the dawn
20th anniversary concert

reggae night
superbods beachfest
(bikini contest)
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for School



Robinsons Department Store

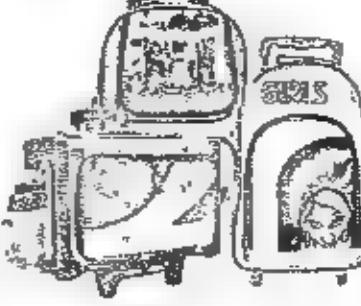
Character School Bags

Assorted Hair Accessories
by AngelenesWriting & Drawing Accessories
by Sterling

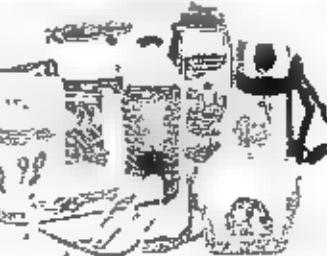
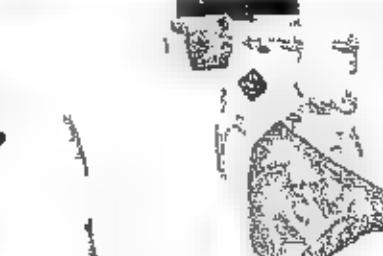
CD Cases & Diskettes



Notebooks, Folders & File Cases

Black School Shoes
by Fisher-Price & Barbie

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School Belts
by A BassiniLunch Boxes, Water Bottles & Tumblers
by Rubbermaid, Olk & SunnexSchool Socks
by Burlington & DarlingtonHankies
by A. VersusExclusive Undergarment Packs
by Hanford & WalkerSchool Uniforms
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by Wrangler & RRJFREE
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There's a new attraction at Enchanted Kingdom.

This summer, get ready for Festivale Danzel! A stunning parade loaded with dance moves, musical grooves and breathtaking fireworks that will surely make your summer days sizzle! Every weekend at 5pm until May 14, 2006.

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The magic stays with you

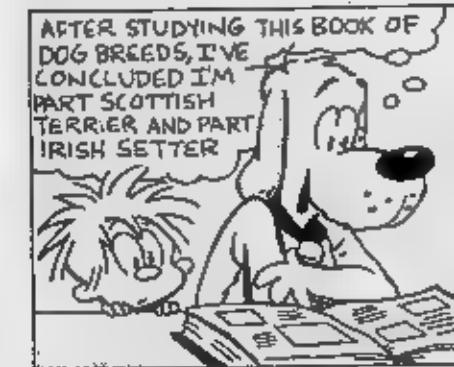


FOXTROT



BY BILL AMEND A. LUPIN

MARVIN

WOW! WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
GRANDPA JUST TOLD ME I WAS SCOTS-IRISH!!

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY



BY PM. JUNIOR

ATOMO AND WEBOY



BY LYRA GARCIELLA



BY PATRICK McDONNELL

DIVINE COMEDY



BY STEVEN PABALINAS

MIKROKOSMOS



BY JON KETEIDO

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You value a job well done. Your willpower and determination guarantee this. You have a probing mind. You're mentally sharp; you pick up on things fast. You need material security. Beneath your mask of practicality, you're idealistic. Your need for family connections becomes stronger. This year you need to let something go to make room for something new.

Birthdate of: Michael Palin, comedian, actor; John Rhys-Davies, actor; Ann B. Davis, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the next few weeks, your money-making ideas could be profitable. No doubt you will also have some very good money-spending ideas as well. Ka-ching!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ability to do profitable, effective, productive research is wonderful now! You have the tenacity and the drive to look under every rock for answers that you need.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You'll need extra patience when talking to authority figures. VIPs, teachers and parents in the next few weeks. Conversations can become competitive. Disagreements might arise.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 19): Today Mercury moves into your sign, where it stays for the next two weeks. This is why you feel a strong urge to communicate to others now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your involvement with clubs, groups and organizations will be active in the next few weeks. Talk to acquaintances. Feedback from others will be helpful to you now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today Mercury moves into Taurus, which is your fellow Earth sign. Because of this, in the next two weeks all your communications with everyone will improve!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Dig right in and deal with research matters related to bills, taxes, inheritances, estates and insurance matters. You'll make great progress. You're in the groove!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today Mercury moves directly opposite your sign. You might feel that others are opposing you. Take a step back. This probably is not the case. Remain open-minded.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have a lot of energy now and in the next few weeks to get better organized at work. Put things in neat little piles. Get rid of junk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The next few weeks are an excellent time for teachers and people working with children. Everything connected to show business and the entertainment world will go well. Communication improves all around.

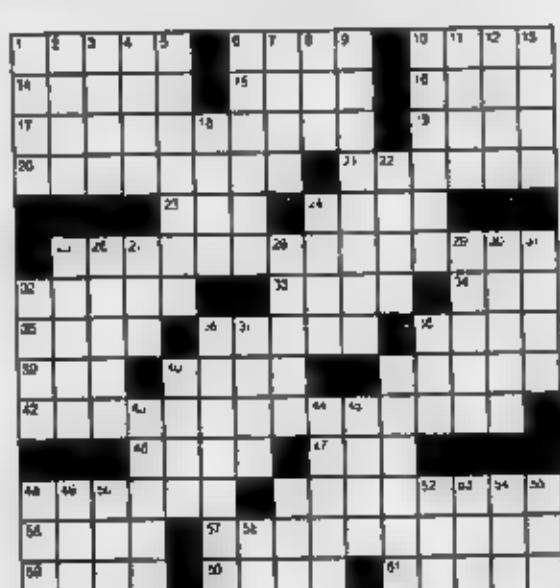
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Family discussions are important now. There's something you want to settle. Talk to parents and family members. Make sure to listen.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Errands, short trips and increased buying and selling keep you very busy in the next few weeks. You're in top form now. You're extremely persuasive!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 "Ninoteka" star
6 Berserk
10 "Ring of Fire" singer
14 Ta-ta, Gigi
15 Checkout delay
16 Shells and such
17 Bill
19 Sign on again
20 Coming into prominence
21 Waiting room
23 Numbskull
24 Unerves
25 Bill
32 Leave-taking
33 Gymnast
Korbul
34 Bus, honcho
35 Radius
neighbor
36 Basil
concoction
38 North Leo begins
39 Record
40 John Wayne's
41 No-no
42 Bill
46 Setback
47 Andean gold
48 Like Poe's midnight
51 Regular payments
57 Bill
59 Fictional Jane
60 Tampico water
61 Being dragged
62 Hey, you!
63 Am. Samoa
64 Speaks gratingly



By Arlen & Linda Bushman, Chicago, IL

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

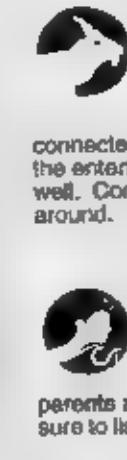
| | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------|
| MASH | CRIME | AREA |
| ARGO | YEMEN | REND |
| ECHO | BRAND | APSE |
| IF YOU JUST BE UP | | |
| CANTERS | IS LIFT | |
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| ROTS | ABA | CKE |
| ONTO | NICHE | INTO |
| LYON | ASKED | STUN |

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38 Mid-rhymed person
37 Stretches (out)
38 Carrier from Tokyo
40 Portal
41 Potential full house
43 Krypton or Vulcan
44 Close by Toledo
45 View from
48 Low in pitch
49 Flat fish
50 Makes a mistake
51 Boot
52 Sicilian hot spot
53 Zealous
54 Let loose
55 Puts in some
56 Bring to maturity

DOWN

1 "Rubenock" West or Arkin
3 Ready for picking
4 Pub purchase
5 Attila's group
6 "The Tempest" King
7 Chinese dynasty



44 Close by Toledo
45 View from
48 Low in pitch
49 Flat fish
50 Makes a mistake
51 Boot
52 Sicilian hot spot
53 Zealous
54 Let loose
55 Puts in some
56 Bring to maturity

KIKO MACHINE



BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS



BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK



BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBING

Bonifacio Global City: Taking a business district to new heights

Bonifacio Global City will soon unveil a new master plan that will transform the emerging business district along C-5 into a city that truly works.

It will be a city where people can live, earn a living and at the same time find places for recreation. It will take a holistic approach to the needs of its residents by providing them all the necessities within walking distance through an efficient pedestrian system, according to Joel Luna, Ayala Land, Inc. assistant vice president in charge of Technical Planning. The pedestrian ways will be complemented by a transport system that will contribute in reducing the traffic jams and long commutes associated with today's business districts.



Perspective of parks along Garden Square in City Center

While the concept was novel at that time, experience shows that having a concentration of office space leads to a host of problems. These include peak-hour traffic queues to get into and out of the area at the morning and evening rush hours, skewed power demand at daytime and lack of nighttime activities. Moreover, after the office workers and visitors have left for home, the districts become ghost towns.

Luna explains that the vision for the new Bonifacio Global City is to allow those who live and work there a balance of activities. Wouldn't it be great if you could live, work and play in the same area? Can you imagine the kind of freedom that would mean? he adds.



Aerial photo of present City Center at Bonifacio Global City

Aside from innovative zoning, the city center master plan will set new standards for urban design. The previous plan focused on a large circular open space at the center of the city and a complementary circular road system that would lead to traffic bottlenecks.

This design has been replaced by a grid of streets that promotes more efficient circulation and a pedestrian promenade that serves as focal point of the entire city. The promenade which stretches from east to west is basically a linear park approximately 500 meters long lined with shops and restaurants and offering special water features, colorful landscaping, plazas and public art. Observes Ayala Land, Inc. president Jaime I. Ayala: Think Greenbelt stretched out over a 500 meter corridor. Like Greenbelt, Bonifacio Global City's new city center will offer the same excitement and vibrance but a decidedly different look.

While the result is a significant loss of saleable land area on FBDC's balance sheet, observes Joselito Campos of Evergreen Holdings, Inc., the area's aesthetic appeal and circulatory efficiency will be significantly



improved. We know the loss in fiscal revenue will be more than made up for by the new benchmarks Bonifacio Global City will set for design and functionality.

Within the city center will be other areas with predominant uses identified. These include: the Main Boulevard Blocks at the visual edge of the city center; the Garden Square Blocks and the City Square Blocks.

As the name implies, The Main Boulevard Blocks are bordered by wide roadways close to the transit center and are ideal for office use. The Garden Square Blocks are quieter areas with each oriented towards a green landscaped park. As such they are ideal for residences and supporting retail and office uses. Finally, The City Square Blocks are oriented for various community activities and are good locations for hotels, conference facilities, embassies, museums, entertainment and office venues. While each set of blocks may have a prescribed dominant use, they are all mixed-use in nature.

Moreover, the new master plan provides Bonifacio Global City with better links to Makati and other business

districts through transportation systems that are still being finalized. The new mass transit systems complement the city's seven access points and its location between C-5 and EDSA.

Luna reveals that a multi-disciplinary team comprised of Ayala Land, Inc. experts in planning, office development, commercial centers, and property management sat down to map out development in the area together with officers from the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) and Ayala Land, Inc.'s partners in FBDC, the Campos Group of Companies and the Bases Conversion Development Authority. The team also benefitted from the inputs of the best consultants in the fields of urban design, landscaping, transportation,

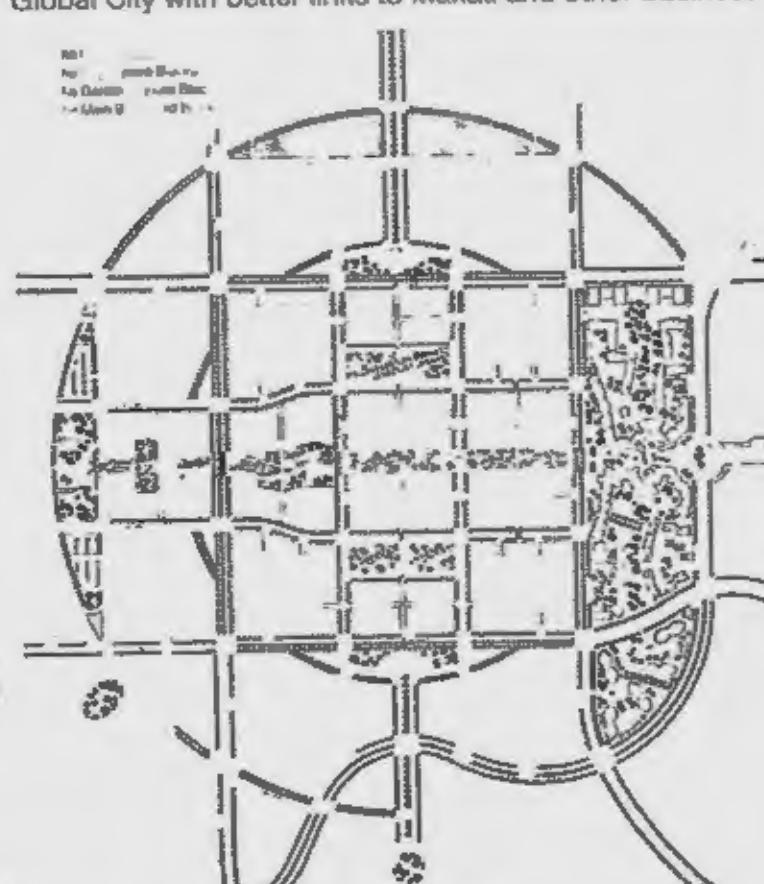


Perspective of City Square in City Center

Civil works on the infrastructure of the first phase commenced in January 2006. The development of the city, which will have the look and feel of a forward-looking cosmopolitan center, will be achieved in phases.

Adds Luna: Every master plan is unique. This one is tailor-fit to benefit the Philippines. It was carved out of the wealth of experience of its planners. It should allow Bonifacio Global City to join the ranks of other thriving cities in Southeast Asia.

For inquiries on Bonifacio Global City, please call 757-6116 or 818-3601 local 3103 / 3106. You may also email us at info@bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph or log on to www.bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph.

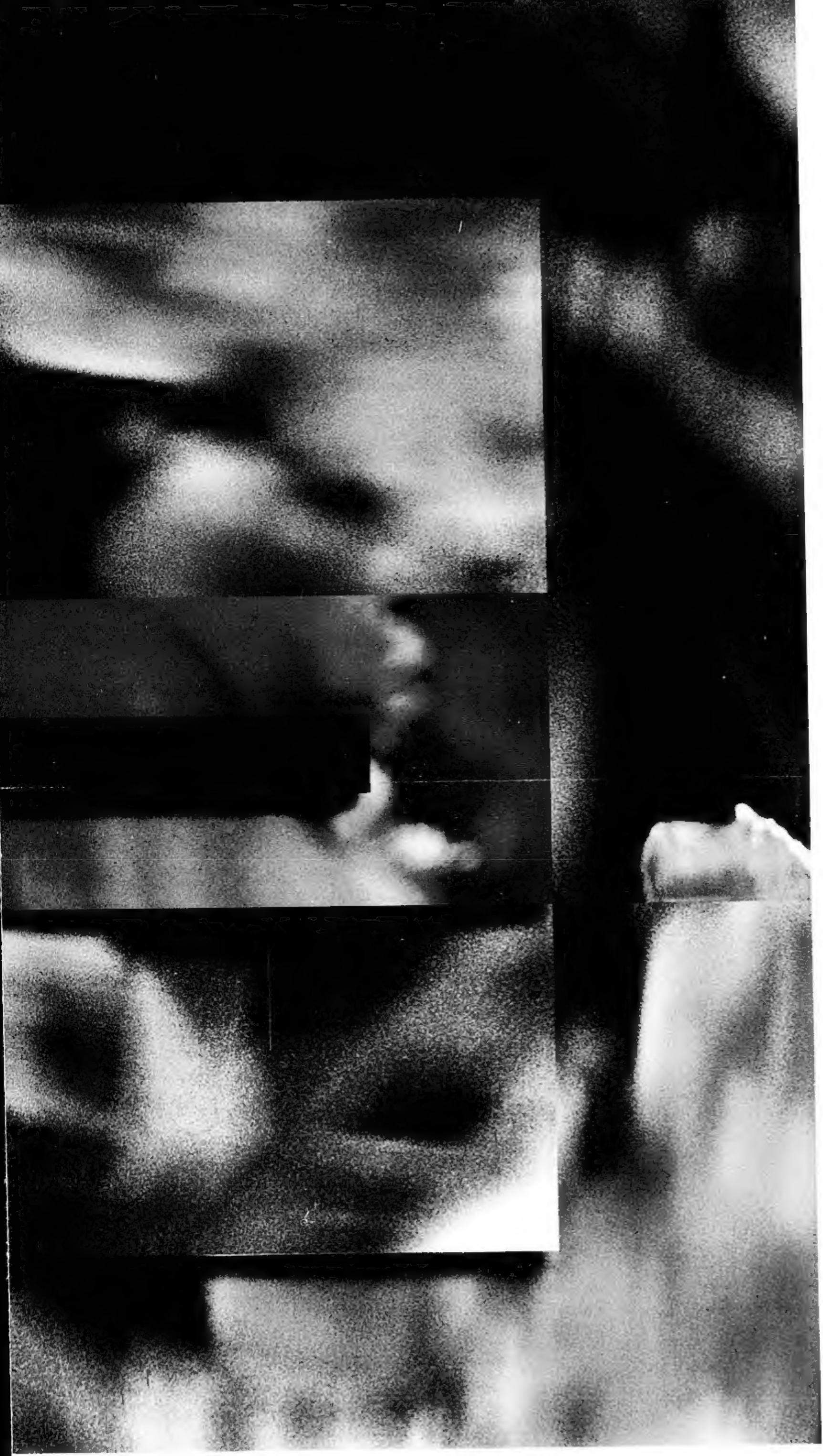


Illustrative masterplan of BGC City Center



Artwork by Jaime Zobel

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**Great ideas
are everywhere.
The passion
to pull them off –
that is rare.**

Here's to the people who live,

work and play with passion.

Here's to the creators! Here's

to companies that make today

and shape tomorrow. Here's

to innovation and invention.

Here's to achieving and

relaxing in equal measure.

Here's to family. Here's to

coming home.

Bonifacio Global City. A place

to live, work, recreate . . . and

create.



Bonifacio

where passion and rationality will find a mutual home



Soon, the evolving Bonifacio Global City will be heralded as the home of passionate minds.

It will be an environment that will allow passion for all the important things in life to be expressed and acknowledged along with a drive for excellence and efficiency associated with work. As such, people will be able to live, work, recreate . . . and create all in one place in this central business district of tomorrow.

For far too long, cities have been compartmentalizing people's lives by setting apart work places from the other areas where real living takes place—homes, schools, parks, entertainment and civic places. The work place has been the domain of efficiency and rationality while creativity and passion have been relegated outside it to

many other areas.

The Information Age dominated by the brisk flow of data and communications and logical and linear thinking has reinforced the distinct separation of work from one's real passions. Nevertheless, credible seers of the future predict a new society founded on the creative, inventive and conceptual as tools that can imbue greater meaning and purpose to life.

Following the Information Age and before it, the agricultural and industrial ages—the Creative Age is set to rise. It will be a time when efficiency and aesthetics will not be mutually exclusive; when information will still be necessary but no longer sufficient; when the capacity



to create beauty and meaning, which was once regarded as a frivolous pursuit, will determine success or failure.

Bonifacio Global City

will be the city of the Creative Age. It will allow the fusion of passion and hard work by providing the infrastructure for it. Here, artistic monuments to creativity, landscaped greenery, promenades and open space that free the mind and the spirit will be laid out along with fibre-optic cabling networks and other infrastructure that offer 21st comfort and convenience.

Here, work, home and civic life will be able to merge seamlessly just like the spaces set aside for these activities. This integrated and holistic environment will be where passionate minds can truly flourish.

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Work-life balance enhanced in Bonifacio Global City

Filipino executives, together with their Singaporean counterparts, are the most stressed among Asian executives, according to *Asian Wall Street Journal's* recent Managing in Asia survey. Stress levels for both groups are attributable to rising costs and the strong pressure to compete on price, according to the study.



As more families in the Asia-Pacific region experience the tension of having both parents working outside the home, stress levels are ever

increasing. The struggles of executives to seek quality of life not only on the job but outside of the workplace as well have given rise to an expressed need for work-life balance. The survey discloses that as many as two-thirds of families have both parents working outside the home.

Work-life balance, however, requires more than simply granting employees more benefits or more time off to attend to their personal needs. Urban planning can also play a key role in helping executives achieve work-life balance, according to Jun Bisnar, Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation's head of commercial operations.

By providing the infrastructure and systems for a city where residents live, work and play in areas within



overarching goal of the Bonifacio Global City masterplan which will be launched some time midyear.

We've picked up lessons from the experiences of other central business developments that are now fully built-up, he explains. Under the current set-up, business districts are devoted mostly to offices and some support commercial use. Because there are few residential areas near places of work, people arrive at about the same time in the morning and return home en masse in the late afternoon. These peak rush hours lead to massive gridlocks in urban centers. At the same time, power demand peaks during the day and wanes in the evenings when the districts become virtual "ghost towns".

By adapting a mixed-use approach, people will be able to live and work in the same place. It's a living, dynamic, 24/7 city that offers a variety of activities any given time of day. When work is a few minutes drive, or even a walk away from home, they are freed to spend more time with their families and can attend to personal

concerns, discloses Bisnar.

Behind the master plan is multi-disciplinary team comprised of Ayala Land, Inc. experts in planning, office development, commercial centers, and property management who brainstormed for 18 months to map out development in the area together with officers from the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC). They also drew from the experiences of Ayala Land Inc.'s partners in FBDC, the Campos Group of Companies and the Bases Conversion Development Authority. The Campos Group has various property developments in EDSA-Central and Laguna. Together, the partners lend Bonifacio Global City stability and a far-seeing vision of the future.



The team took into consideration not only present problems of existing business districts that led to the current work-life imbalance, but also

requirements of the future global city such as an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 new families who are expected to establish residence there in the next 10 years. They will enjoy the benefits of a less stressful work environment, while taking pleasure in spending more quality time with their loved ones and more time for themselves, says Bisnar.

The new logo of Bonifacio Global City will soon be seen in this evolving city's scenery.

Imbued with the spirit and vision of the city of the future, the logo evokes the dynamism and progressive nature of the development, as expressed in the overlapping lines that allude to modern contemporary art. This kinetic icon communicates the movement and fluidity of a mixed-use site, blurring boundaries between work, leisure, and personal spaces.

Moreover, the icon forms two basic yet significant elements. The circle represents the primary shape of the city's masterplan as well as completeness and

convergence, a self-sustaining and growing hub for various activities.

The square within the circle represents the city center and the sense of structure and stability within this ever-changing urban landscape.

The colors of the logo also evoke the city's contemporary and energetic spirit. The lime green and deep aquamarine hues define youthfulness and a vibrant environment, an expression of the city as a place



Bonifacio

of growth and refuge. The bright orange creates a striking contrast that captures the passion for creativity and new ideas.

In its entirety, the logo embodies the essence of a progressive city of the future—a city steeped in possibilities and teeming with diversity—a home for passionate minds.